Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-243
Wednesday
18 December 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-243 18 December 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: The Near East & South Asia book has instituted Front Page, a digest of significant items published each day. Comments may be directed to FBIS Liaison and Requirements Branch, (703) 733-5840.

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Delegation Head: No Progress at Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 3
Says Israel Wants To End Talks 18 Dec *[Damascus Radio]* 3
Delegation Reaffirms 'Land for Peace' *[London MBC TV]* 3
'No Agreement in Sight' as Corridor Talks Resume *[Amman TV]* 4
Talks Reach 'Deadlock' *[Amman Radio]* 4
Talks on 'Brink of Collapse' *[RFL]* 5
Jordan Asks Discussion of Human Rights in Moscow *[Amman TV]* 5
Israeli Talks With Arab Delegations Reviewed *[Jerusalem TV]* 5
'Verge of Collapse' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Israelis Expect Talks To Resume Next Month *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Criticizes Repeal of UN Zionism Act *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
Arab Economic Council Urges End to Iraq Embargo *[Amman AL-RA'Y 17 Dec]* 7

Palestinian Affairs

Repeal of UN Resolution on Zionism Condemned 7
PFLP Urges Halt to Peace Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 7
'New Blow' to Arab Nation *[SANA]* 7
Qaddumi—Revocation 'Shameful' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 7
Act Proves 'U.S. Domination' *[Algiers VOP]* 8
Repeal 'Dangerously Negative' *[Algiers VOP]* 8
U.S. Urged To Press Israel on Substantive Talks *[AL-FAJR 11 Dec]* 8
PLO Aide on U.S. 'Appeasement' Toward Israel *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Dec]* 9
Sha'th—U.S. 'Retreat' Dooms Talks to 'Failure' *[AL-NADWAH 13 Dec]* 10
Hawatimah: Halt Settlements or Cease Peace Talks *[Algiers ENTV]* 10
Al-Husayni on Implications of Silwan Events *[AL-FAJR 16 Dec]* 11
ICO Seen 'Settling Scores' With Palestinians *[Sanaa VOP]* 12
Saudi Stance on ICO Statement Criticized *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14-15 Dec]* 12
PFLP-GC Reacts to Israeli Raid in al-Biqa' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 13
Rally for Libya Planned at Syria's al-Yarmuk Camp *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Interior Minister Says Elections Set 26 Dec *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Dec]* 14
Minister Says Guemar Situation 'Under Control' *[Algiers TV]* 14
Officials Arrest Criminal Group, Seize Weapons *[Algiers TV]* 15

Egypt

Israeli Religious Affairs Minister Arrives *[MENA]* 15
U.S. Urged To Exploit UN 'Favor' to Israel *[MENA]* 15
Smuggling of U.S. Bills at Border Points Noted *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 12 Dec]* 15
Newspaper Interviews 'Somaliland' Leader *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASAT 12 Dec]* 16

Libya

Sirte Students Protest U.S., UK 'Allegations' *[JANA]* 16
Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Confer on Dakar Results *[Algiers VOP]* 16
'Arafat Departs 17 Dec *[Tripoli International]* 16

Sudan

Summer Agricultural Crop Season 'Success' *[SUNA]* 17
*Al-Bashir Appoints New State Newspaper Editors
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Dec] 17

Tunisia

Ghannouchi Emphasizes Nonviolent Intentions *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Dec]* 17
Al-Nahdah Denies Ghannouchi Marries in Sudan *[AL-SHA'B 10 Dec]* 18

Western Sahara

Polisario Says Morocco Obstructing UN Plan *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Negotiations May Replace Referendum *[Madrid TV]* 18
Polisario Denies Negotiating *[Madrid TV]* 19

IRAQ

UN Ruling on War Culpability Criticized *[INA]* 20
Commentary Notes Repeal of UN Zionism Resolution *[Baghdad VOP]* 20
'Infraction' of Human Principles *[INA]* 20
Cleric Kho'i Ailing; Baghdad Denying Outside Aid *[AFP]* 21
Rebel Radio Reports Marshland Ambushes, Gains *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 21
'Popular Forces' Repulse Attack *[Tehran TV]* 21
Deaths of 80,000 Children Said Due to Blockade *[INA]* 21
'Popular Demonstrations' Against Sanctions Noted *[INA]* 22
Exploding War Bombs Causing Civilian Casualties *[INA]* 22
Ordnance Defused in al-Anbar *[INA]* 22
ICRC Urged To Aid Woman Detained by Kuwait *[Baghad Radio]* 22
Correction to Coup Reports 'Ridiculed' by Dailies 23

ISRAEL

Palestinian Position at Talks 'More Intransigent' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Levi Meets With Bush on Guarantees, MIA's *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
IDF Spokesman Denies Report on Missing Soldiers *[HA'ARETZ 18 Dec]* 24
Arens Asks Settlement Leaders To Urge Restraint *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Settlers Enter Arab Village Past IDF Roadblock *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Settlers Form 'Security Patrols,' Mark Arab Homes *[HA'ARETZ 18 Dec]* 25
Plan to Settle West Bank Military Outpost Denied *['AL HAMISHMAR 18 Dec]* 25
EC Signs Over 7-Year, $205 Million Loan *[DAVAR 18 Dec]* 25

JORDAN

King Husayn Interviewed on Current Issues *[Amman TV]* 26
Deputies Reject Deleting Jihad from Dakar Statement *[Amman Radio]* 31
House Deputies Debate Policy Statement *[Amman Radio]* 31

Confidence Vote Eases Government 'Crisis' *[JORDAN TIMES 18 Dec]* 32
Columnist on Debt Rescheduling Difficulties *[AL-RA'Y 16 Dec]* 33
CBJ Denies Freezing Kuwaiti Money Transfers *[Amman Radio]* 34
U.S. Aid To Moscow, 'Siege' on Iraq Viewed *[AL-RA'Y 16 Dec]* 34

LEBANON

Buwayz Denies Requesting New Arms From U.S. *[Beirut VOL]* 35
Five Israeli Soldiers Reported 'Missing' *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Five Israelis 'Arrested' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 35
Israeli Overflights Noted; Shells Defused *[VOM]* 35
France's Dumas Promises Support for Rebuilding *[Paris LE MONDE 15-16 Dec]* 35

SYRIA

Commentary Sees Lack of Progress in Peace Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Talks Not Moving in 'Right' Direction *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Al-Zu'bi on Relations With Kuwait, Peace Process
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 16 Dec] 37

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

'Largest Ever' Gas Field Discovered in Gulf *[IRNA]* 38
RSFSR's Rutskoy Arrives, Comments on Goals *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Asks Tehran To Help Free Afghanistan POW's *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Tehran Radio Views Relations With PRC 38
Tehran Blocked Access to UN Human Rights Envoy *[Flag of Freedom]* 39
Minister Urges No 'Meddling' in Majles Elections *[IRNA]* 39
Source: Former Oil Minister 'Martyred' in Iraq *[IRNA]* 39

Pakistan

Li Peng Visit to India 'Welcome Development' *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
U.S. Official's Regional Tour Assessed *[THE MUSLIM 30 Nov]* 40
Meeting With Iranian Trade Representatives Held *[IRNA]* 42
Army Chief of Staff Reviews Troop Exercises *[THE MUSLIM 2 Dec]* 42
Defense Official on Weapons, Ordnance Production *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Zaki Comments on Outcome of Islamic Summit *[Islamabad Radio]* 43

Sri Lanka

President Details Government's Policy Goals *[LANKAPUVATH]* 43
Soviet Embassy Fires Sri Lankans To Cut Costs *[AFP]* 44

Arab-Israeli Talks

"No progress has been made" in talks with Israel, the chief Syrian negotiator told Damascus radio. Palestinian-Israeli corridor talks resumed "with no agreement in sight," Amman television added. The Jordanian spokesman said the talks have reached a "deadlock," Amman radio reported, while a correspondent for the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon saw the talks "on the brink of collapse." A Jerusalem television correspondent said that while "the talks seem to have made some progress," further negotiations with the Palestinians are "still far away." A Jerusalem radio correspondent said that while talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation "are on the verge of collapse," Israel still expects the resumption of bilateral negotiations "in Washington next month."

Palestinian Affairs

The PFLP urged Arab delegations in Washington to break off talks with Israel in response to the UN's repeal of the Zionism-racism resolution, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Faruq Qaddumi and an official Palestinian spokesman commented on the issue, Algiers Voice of Palestine (VOP) disclosed. A PLO news agency commentary broadcast by Sanaa VOP viewed the recent Islamic summit declarations as a means by the Gulf states of "settling scores" with the Palestinians. In Libya, meanwhile, 'Arafat and al-Qadhdhafi discussed the Dakar summit, Algiers VOP disclosed.

Israel

Tel Aviv radio reported on the foreign minister's visit with President Bush. A military spokesman termed Arab radio reports that five Israeli soldiers are missing in Lebanon as "unfounded and sheer nonsense," HA'ARETZ disclosed.

Egypt

The Israeli religious affairs minister arrived for talks, MENA reported.

Iraq

AL-THAWRAH saw the UN's "biased, unprincipled report" on the Iran-Iraq war as the product of a U.S.-Iran deal on hostages, INA reported.

Jordan

King Husayn's interview with Western correspondents was broadcast on Amman television.

Algeria

The defense minister spoke at the site of a recently attacked border post, affirming that the situation there was "under control," Algiers television reported. The interior minister told the London paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that elections will be held 26 December, "unless a disaster takes place."

Sudan

The head of the Revolution Command Council, who recently added the post of information minister to his duties, appointed new chief editors of two government newspapers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT disclosed.

Iran

The Russian vice president began a visit, Tehran radio reported.

Sri Lanka

The president made a "major policy statement," reported by LANKAPUVATH.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Delegation Head: No Progress at Talks

JN1712173891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the second phase of the Middle East peace talks, has said that making progress in the discussions currently being held in Washington hinges on adequate good intentions on the part of Israel.

In a statement to journalists prior to the beginning of today's session of talks, al-'Allaf added that the Washington talks have entered their third week without any progress being made.

Answering a journalist's question about the date set for ending these talks, he said: We will stay as long as is necessary. The matter, however, depends on the presence of all of the parties involved. We will stay, and we hope that the others will stay until we achieve some success.

Al-'Allaf stressed that the true obstacle in the talks is represented by the Israeli side's refusal to speak about its commitments in accordance with the peace process.

These talks are still revolving in a vicious circle as a result of Israeli intransigence, despite the fact that the actual meetings entered their second week yesterday.

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation resumed talks with the Israelis today to tackle the problem that has existed since the outset of the meetings. This problem is embodied by the Israeli side's rejection of an independent Palestinian representation within the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

It is worth mentioning that this phase of talks in Washington began on 4 December. The actual talks, however, began on 10 December due to the Israeli delegation's absence on the previously set date.

Says Israel Wants To End Talks 18 Dec

JN1712221591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has declared that the Israeli side wants to end the current round of the second phase of Middle East peace talks after a meeting that is to be held at 1100 tomorrow, despite the fact that no progress has been made in the past five meetings.

In a statement to journalists after today's meetings, al-'Allaf said: The Israeli side wants tomorrow to be the last day in this round. For our part, we have said that we prefer the talks to continue for as long as possible before the arrival of Christmas.

Al-'Allaf added that the Israeli side also refuses to return to Washington later if the talks are suspended tomorrow. Al-'Allaf said: We hope they will change their mind tomorrow and demonstrate a desire to discuss substantive issues that will make progress possible.

Replying to a question on whether the Syrian Arab delegation is ready to consider a venue for the talks other than Washington, al-'Allaf said: We came to Washington to try to do something and to attain results, but we have not reached any results. We have spent five or six days working, and we do not think that this is the correct way if the Israeli side is sincere about peace. In other words, we have come to a place agreed to by the parties and instead of talking about peace, the Israelis raise the issue of searching for another venue. Hence, the short time available for talks is wasted on marginal issues, or on issues that have nothing to do with the subject for which we have come; namely, reaching a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Delegation Reaffirms 'Land for Peace'

NC1712213091 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Interview with Bushra Kanafani, Syrian delegation spokeswoman, by unidentified MBC correspondent; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kanafani] We want the peace process but Israel is not serious about it, because it thinks of devouring the Arab territories. Therefore, we must continue to press Israel to engage in a peace process, whose basis is not in line with the constants of the Israeli stand on the occupied Arab territories and Palestinian rights. What is new is that, one way or another, the official political U.S. stand is now contradicting the official political Israeli stand on the main principle of land for peace.

One way or another, Israel eventually will find itself in a corner, because it is essentially and radically in disagreement with a friendly state—the United States.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the coordination among Arab negotiators?

[Kanafani] Through inter-Arab coordination, efforts are concentrated on solving the problem on the Palestinian-Jordanian side so that it will not be the Arabs who will give Israel relief by the Arabs' withdrawal from the talks. The Lebanese are sitting with them and so is our committee, and things are heading toward a solution. Even this picture, through which some people believe that there might be two different positions concerning the Arab move and what is happening, is, in fact, a result of a coordination.

[Correspondent] Has any development occurred in the negotiations with the Israeli side so far?

[Kanafani] So far, four sessions have taken place. Since the first session, or rather from the meeting which took place in Madrid, we are still moving in the same circle. That is to say, the Israeli side wants to talk about everything except withdrawal from the occupied territories.

For our part, we say that there is an equation which is the basis of the peace process—the equation of land for peace.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the U.S. role thus far?

[Kanafani] There have been some tactics in recent days in the form of action and reaction. The U.S. side seems less involved than we had thought or wanted in the existing problems in the Washington talks. However, we do not assess the U.S. role from this standpoint. We assess it through the comprehensiveness of its role and its proposed ideas, and we are still at the beginning of the road.

'No Agreement in Sight' as Corridor Talks Resume

JN1712224191 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2007 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was due to hold another meeting with Israeli negotiators later tonight as corridor talks continued in the U.S. State Department. A meeting ended about an hour ago with no agreement in sight.

The head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, told reporters that two letters where handed to the Israelis today, and that another meeting was to be held later tonight.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi] We had further discussions, and we handed the Israeli delegation a message with regard to the latest response from them, and we also handed them another message from the Palestinian delegation. I don't have to say anything further because we are holding a press conference at two o'clock at the hotel.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, we shall be coming back around five o'clock. [end recording]

The joint delegation in Washington expressed cautious optimism that the impasse could be resolved soon.

Jordanian delegation member Dr. Jawad al-'Anani told the "News at Ten" that the two letters handed to the Israelis today dealt with the situation in the occupied territories, and Jordan's response to the Israeli proposals yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] The Jordanian and Palestinian heads of delegations gave the Israelis two letters today, one dealing with the issue of settlements that was presented particularly upon request by the Palestinian track, and the other one was specifying our response to the last, or third proposal that had been submitted by the Israelis yesterday.

[Unidentified reporter] So was there progress?

[Al-'Anani] Well, at the beginning it seemed that the negotiations were bogged down in the morning, simply because each side insisted on their position. While the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation insisted that the two track approach should be adopted, the Israelis seemed to think that the joint meetings should be the source of meetings and legitimacy for the meetings. [end recording]

Talks Reach 'Deadlock'

JN1812000791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Dec 91

[George Tarif report from Washington]

[Excerpts] Heads of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations held two meetings last night and at dawn today to continue discussions on how to resume the bilateral negotiations but without realizing any noteworthy progress.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the talks, told reporters after the evening meeting, which is the 10th so far, that the Israelis are still insisting on their position concerning the joint delegation, thus violating the principles of Madrid, the letters of invitation, and the U.S. assurances.

Dr. al-Majali said the heads of the Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations have asked the Israelis to go to the cosponsors of the talks to brief them on the situation, but the Israeli side rejected this, saying that the cosponsors are aware of all that is going on. He added that another meeting will be held at 1000, Washington time, 1700 Jordan time.

Dr. al-Majali said in his statement:

[Begin al-Majali recording] We met for one hour. It was maybe the shortest meeting. The Israeli side still insists that the meeting be held with the delegation as a joint one, and that this is something basic. It did not accept what we suggested; therefore, we decided to delay the meeting until morning. [end recording]

Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian delegation, told reporters that the negotiations have not realized progress and are revolving in a vicious circle, and that another meeting will be held today. He said that any progress hinges on the Israeli position, which has shown no response. He added that Israel is trying to sneak away through rejecting the two tracks and insisting on meeting with a joint delegation. [passage omitted]

At the residence of the Palestinian delegation, a meeting of the delegation heads and a number of Arab delegation members was held at dawn today within the framework of coordination and consultation on the developments related to the negotiations, and to become acquainted with their results.

Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, the Jordanian delegation's spokesman, held a press conference last night in which he said the negotiations have reached a deadlock. He stressed that the proposal presented by the heads of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegation was rejected by the Israelis.

He said that the Israelis insist on changing the point of reference of the peace process, unleashed by the United

States, which was contained in the letters of assurances and the invitation letter which call for two tracks: Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli.

He referred to the meeting held between the members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations with Mr. Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state yesterday, saying that it has no connection with the bilateral negotiations, and was prearranged. On the multilateral talks, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that they would participate in them.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, held a press conference in which they stressed that the United States knows what is going on in the bilateral negotiations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the Israeli delegation still adheres to its position. He added that he has presented a memorandum to the Israeli delegation on settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories. However, he did not elaborate on the text of the memorandum. [passage omitted]

Talks on 'Brink of Collapse'

NC1812071091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The second round of Washington talks is on the brink of collapse because the delegations have failed to make any progress in the peace process along the Lebanese-Israeli, the Syrian-Israeli, or the joint Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli tracks. We begin with the latest Lebanese-Israeli round of talks, which is the second to last.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese negotiating team, has stated that the talks were in-depth and that Israel demanded the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent in Washington Michel al-Haj has reported that talks between the Lebanese and Israeli delegates centered on two issues: determining the venue and date of the coming round of talks, and the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanese territory. According to our correspondent, the Lebanese delegation reiterated its demand for holding the coming round of talks in Washington, because Washington is the safest place in the world and is close to the decision-making centers. This demand met with the objection of the Israelis, who stressed that Beirut and Jerusalem are the decisionmaking centers. The Israelis pointed out that if there is fear that the talks might be far away from Washington or that the United States might be distanced from them, a precedent was set by the Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona talks [between the Lebanese and Israelis leading to the 17 May agreement of 1983].

The Lebanese delegation also demanded the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the south, but the Israelis made the withdrawal of other non-Lebanese forces, including the Syrian troops, a condition for this. The Lebanese delegates responded by saying that the Syrian Army cannot possibly be equated with other forces. They explained the meaning of the al-Ta'if accord and Lebanese-Syrian relations. At this point, the Israelis emphasized that they do not object to the al-Ta'if accord as far as Lebanese internal affairs are concerned, but the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon constitutes a threat to Israeli security.

According to our correspondent in Washington, the Israeli delegates accused Syria of maintaining the Iranians and their followers in southern Lebanon with the purpose of carrying out sabotage operations, adding that the continued presence of these elements is a Syrian decision.

Jordan Asks Discussion of Human Rights in Moscow

JN1812080191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Dr. 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side in the joint delegation, and a number of the delegation's members met with Mr. Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

In a telephone call with our correspondent a while ago, al-Majali said the meeting dealt with arrangements relating to the multilateral meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Moscow on 28 and 29 January.

The meeting also discussed some procedural measures relating to the agenda, which includes water, arms limitation, economic development, and refugees.

Our correspondent learned that the Jordanian side has proposed adding an article relating to human rights to the agenda of the meeting.

Israeli Talks With Arab Delegations Reviewed

TA1712195591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in Washington—live]

[Text] The talks still going on at the State Department seem to have made some progress, but a resolution of the framework of future talks with the Palestinians is still far away. In response to the recent Israeli position papers, the Palestinian delegation has just presented two additional position papers of its own. The meeting will continue later. [A report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 17 December quotes special correspondent in Washington Gid'on Kouts as reporting that "the talks between the Israeli and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegations are on the verge of a crisis."]

Right now, even the Jordanians seem to be losing patience with their partners from the territories. Later they will discuss the matter with administration officials. To bolster the delegation after Faysal al-Husayni canceled his flight to Washington, Basal Aqil, another PLO envoy, secretly arrived here.

The Syrians have suggested that the delegations remain in Washington for another week—that is, until James

Baker returns from his trip—but Israel wants to stop the talks tomorrow or the day after. In the meeting with the Syrians, which has just ended, Israel presented an analysis prepared by David Afeq—head of the Foreign Ministry's Center for Political Research—of Syrian statements about Israel, including some made in the course of the Washington talks. One such statement, made by delegation head Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, said that Syria has waited for a solution for 200 [figure as heard] years—a hint at the Crusades. Afeq analyzed each and every Syrian stand, averring that Syria has not changed its positions even when sitting down to negotiations.

After that, the Israeli delegation presented Yig'al Karmon, the prime minister's adviser on countering terrorism, who showed a photostat of a Syrian passport seized on the body of a Fatah man near Gaza on Sunday and read out a long list of terrorist bases maintained by the Syrians on behalf of Palestinian and other organizations near Damascus. The head of the Syrian delegation said: I reject these fabrications. The latter is a quote. He intends to react to this at a later point.

In the talks with the Lebanese, which have just adjourned, Uri Lubrani very resolutely presented Israel's objection to some clauses of the al-Ta'if agreement referring to a continued Syrian presence in Lebanon. Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, will respond at the next meeting, which is due to start in one hour.

'Verge of Collapse'

TA1712203291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The talks between the Israeli and the Arab delegations will be resumed in Washington tomorrow. Tomorrow night, the Israeli delegates plan to leave on their way home.

The talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation are on the verge of collapse after the Palestinians rejected the Israeli compromise proposals. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that he had hoped that today talks about substance would be initiated.

The corridor talks are scheduled to resume at midnight. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the Palestinians have handed the Israeli delegation two memorandums: one demanding that settlement be stopped in return for substantive talks, and another calling for two-track negotiations.

A short while ago, the Jordanian delegation met with a U.S. assistant secretary of state, asking him to intervene in the affair.

The Syrian delegates pointed out today that they will not negotiate the withdrawal component of Resolution 242, although they are ready to discuss other components. The Israeli delegation presented detailed data proving that Syria supports terrorism. It also leveled sharp criticism at the Damascus decision to vote at the United Nations against the annulment of the resolution equating Zionism with racism. The Syrians replied: The data are mendacious and unconnected with the peace process; we will furnish a detailed retort tomorrow.

Israelis Expect Talks To Resume Next Month

TA1812055191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The Israeli, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations will meet again in Washington in several hours for the final round of talks in the current stage of the peace process.

'Oded Ben-'Ami, our correspondent in Washington, reports that the Israeli delegation has put off its return home until tomorrow, and this evening its heads will meet with Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs. The Israelis will inform Djerejian of the conclusion of this round of talks and coordinate with him their resumption after Christmas. The heads of the Arab delegations also met with Djerejian and asked him to coordinate the resumption of the talks.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that while the Israelis expect the bilateral talks to resume in Washington next month, Arab sources have asserted that the talks will resume only in three months. The Jordanians and the Palestinians have announced that they will not oppose launching the multilateral talks before the bilateral talks resume; Syria, however, opposes this.

Sources in the Israeli delegation this morning said that they could not offer the Palestinians a more flexible proposal than the one already made. The sources told Arye Golan, our correspondent in Washington, that as far as it is concerned Israel has done the maximum to respect the Palestinians' demand for two-track negotiations. Now it is up to the Palestinians to show flexibility to bridge the gaps. Our correspondent pointed out that at this stage the difference between the positions of the two parties has narrowed down to only two points which mean allotting independent status, even if only in a symbolic sense, to the Palestinian delegation.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Criticizes Repeal of UN Zionism Act

JN1712184691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] 'Adnan 'Imran, the Arab League assistant secretary general, has criticized the UN resolution repealing a previous resolution equating Zionism with racism. He described it as hasty given that Israel is continuing its repressive practices in the occupied territory and its racial discrimination between those who live in Israel

and those who live in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He alluded to the daily violations, be they stealing water, confiscation, administrative evacuation, or the taking over by force, as happened in Silwan.

Mufid Shihab, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the Egyptian Consultative Council, has said that the UN resolution is considered to be a blow to the peace march in the Middle East. Shihab noted that by repealing this resolution, Israel has realized a free gain at the expense of the Arab states and that it will be able to carry out further suppression of the Arab people in the occupied territory.

Egypt had refused to vote on the UN resolution. An Egyptian press statement said that Egypt endeavors to work for peace and to maintain the peace atmosphere undisturbed.

Arab Economic Council Urges End to Iraq Embargo

JN1712125191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—The Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC] has asked all Arab countries to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq, release its frozen assets, and to deal with it commercially.

The following is the text of the resolution:

Resolution 959/D 54 dated 5 December 1991;

Taking cognizance of the memorandum of the Republic of Iraq on alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people—and within the framework of the international legitimacy resolutions—and of the report of the committee of the deputies to the permanent representatives "as a preparatory committee" in its meeting on 1-3 December 1991, the AEUC has decided:

1. To call on all sisterly Arab countries to take the necessary measures to release the frozen Iraqi funds so that they can be used to provide food, medicines, and basic necessities needed by the fraternal Iraqi people.

2. To call on all countries to end the economic embargo imposed on Iraq, particularly in the humanitarian aspects of providing food, medicines, and other necessary requirements.

3. To call on the Arab countries to deal with Iraq commercially in all ways that will alleviate the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people.

Palestinian Affairs

Repeal of UN Resolution on Zionism Condemned

PFLP Urges Halt to Peace Talks

JN1812123191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has urged the Arab delegations, including the Palestinian delegation, to stop the Washington peace talks as a response to the UN repealing of the resolution equating Zionism with racism.

'New Blow' to Arab Nation

JN1712192591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has described the UN General Assembly's repealing of Resolution 3,379, issued in 1975, which considers Zionism to be a racist movement, as a new blow to the national Palestinian and pan-Arab struggle and a reward to Israel.

This came in a statement by the PFLP Political Bureau spokesman, who said that repealing the aforementioned resolution encourages Israel to go ahead with its hostile policies that refuse to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy or to respond to peace calls.

The spokesman stressed that the repealing of this resolution constitutes a new blow to the Arab nation. It ignores Israel's terrorist practices against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the Arab nation.

Qaddumi—Revocation 'Shameful'

JN1712181591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] In the Israeli-occupied territories, Faysal al-Husayni has said that suppressing the Palestinian people and denying them their legitimate rights, especially the right to self-determination, is essentially racist. Therefore, al-Husayni added, canceling the 1975 UN resolution equating Zionism with racism is not of importance to the Palestinians as a whole. What is of importance, he said, is canceling the aggressive and racist Israeli laws and policies.

In Tunis, an official Palestinian source said that the international pressures brought to bear by the U.S. Administration to pass a resolution canceling the earlier resolution branding Zionism as a racist movement, at a time when the peace negotiations are going on, is considered to be a serious move, one that hinders the moves toward peace and rewards Israel for its occupation of Arab territories and its contempt for UN resolutions. He added that the international resolution denouncing Israel was issued at that time in response to Israel's practices against the Arab nation. The whole world eventually will realize that Israel will consider yesterday's resolution, which the United States has imposed because of its leading position in the world, to be a certificate of acquittal from a long history of occupation and massacres against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

In this context, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has described the cancellation of the resolution as a shameful one in human history. He adds that this cancellation gives a wrong picture of the

international organization and consecrates U.S. domination over the United Nations.

Act Proves 'U.S. Domination'

LD1712195791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Farouq Qaddumi], head of the PLO political department, has, in commenting on the UN General Assembly's vote to repeal the resolution considering Zionism a form of racism, stated the following: The decision of the United Nations to repeal the resolution considering Zionism a form of racism reflects a reversal in the appearance of this international organization, and has proved U.S. domination over the United Nations, as happened during the Gulf war. International legitimacy has been used as a tool to serve the United States and its allies.

The results of the voting can never reflect the truth of the international position, but they show the extent to which pressure was exerted on countries' capitals to commit them to vote in favor of this shameful resolution. The world knows from Israel's terroristic practices that it is a racist, fascist regime, which consecrates its occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands, persecutes the original people of the country, commits mass massacres, establishes Nazi concentration camps, practices torture in all its forms, widens its settling operations in the Arab territories, and finds continuous support from the United States.

This resolution is a stigma on the history of mankind, responsibility for which is borne by the United States and those European countries which call for a forthcoming era of peace while regrettably consecrating racial discrimination and practicing political and economical pressure in order that the Third World might remain under its control, enslaving it and exploiting its wealth. This explains to us the state of anxiety and fear in which the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America live, because of this new international world order.

Repeal 'Dangerously Negative'

LD1712213891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Commentary by "official Palestinian spokesman"]

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has stated the following: The international pressure that the U.S. Administration generated in order to have the consideration of Zionism as a racist movement repealed, at a time when peace talks are taking place in Washington, is a dangerous act hindering steps toward peace.

It is a reward to Israel for its continued occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands; for its attacks and crimes against the Palestinian people in Palestine, the Syrian people in the Golan, and the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in southern Lebanon; for its disdain for resolutions and its annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan; for its confiscation of Arab and Palestinian lands and building of settlements on them; for its having expelled large numbers of Palestinian and Arab citizens from their lands, banishing them outside the homeland; for its committing, as an occupying authority together with the armed settlers, crimes against the mas...s of the Palestinian people and the Islamic and Christian holy sites; and for its continued violation of the fourth Geneva convention against the Palestinians and Arab inhabitants.

Through this act the U.S. Administration has affirmed that it is not an honest intermediary, but rather completely prejudiced in favor of Israel, its crimes, and its continued occupation of our Arab, Islamic, and Christian holy sites, which will have dangerously negative repercussions on the overall steps toward peace.

Is this the nature of the new international world order whose features the U.S. Administration is now outlining? Is the only superpower now in the world against the small peoples, including our Palestinian people, who have for 43 years been suffering the ugliest forms of organized official torture and terror?

The PLO, while strongly condemning this biased U.S. role, emphasizes that the attributes of occupation and racism will not be sloughed by Israel so long as it continues to occupy Palestinian and Arab lands, and refuses to comply with the international will to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and establish an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as capital.

The resolution of international condemnation of Israel was at that time a reply to Israel's practices against the Arab nation. The entire world will watch Israel finding in yesterday's resolution—which the United States imposed through its leadership capacity at the international level—testimony to innocence of a long history of occupation and massacres against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

There is nothing more revealing than the support of 35 countries which in either opposing, abstaining from, or being absent from the voting represent more than 80 percent of the global population, and which voted against the resolution to declare Zionism innocent of its nature, history, and reality—because they refuse to counterfeit reality and history under the pressure of U.S. omnipotence. These 35 countries, with a population amounting to 2.4 billion inhabitants, will continue to stand by the Palestinian people and the PLO, until the termination of Israeli occupation and the creation of the independent state of Palestine.

U.S. Urged To Press Israel on Substantive Talks

TA1212175091 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Dec 91 p 1

[Editorial: "The Shamir Government's Games"]

[Text] We do not know what other obstacle the Israeli Government will toss in the path of the negotiations during

the coming hours. Almost every day it raises a procedural problem, then converts it immediately into an obstacle that effectively prevents the start of negotiations. No sooner is this or that obstacle surmounted than that government proceeds again to fabricate a new one, as if it pulling the obstacle out of its sleeve! From the venue it creates a problem; from the date, a problem; from the travel of its delegation, at its various levels and committees, to Washington, a problem; from the manner of sitting at the negotiating table, a problem; from the closed doors of the negotiators' rooms, a problem; and so forth. Now it is creating a problem about negotiating with our delegation. We truly do not know what problems, obstacles, and impediments it will create tomorrow!

It is inconceivable that we be goaded by the Israeli Government into playing such "games" every morning and evening. If we get goaded, we would, in fact, be playing the same games—to hinder and wreck the peace process in its early rounds.

Since we are interested in peace and are eager to continue the negotiations with total seriousness, the larger and greater sponsor of the peace conference—the United States—should fulfill its practical role and pressure the Israeli Government to end this artificial ambiguity and move quickly toward fundamental and substantive negotiations.

The terrible waste of time by the Israeli Government these days signifies nothing but hastening toward the multilateral meeting in Moscow on 28 December without the parties concerned being able to make any progress in the important bilateral negotiations in Washington. In other words, the Israeli Government is now trying, with its clamorous ambiguities, to achieve Arab-Israeli normalization in the coming Moscow negotiations at the expense of the Washington negotiations!

The road to Moscow, however, passes through Washington. Moreover, success in Moscow must be preceded by a clear success in Washington. Then why does Washington not "explain" this simple and decisive point to its closest ally, Israel?

PLO Aide on U.S. 'Appeasement' Toward Israel

PM1712155191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 91 p 7

[Unattributed interview with PLO Executive Committee Member and "Secretary" Jamal al-Surani in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] As the bilateral talks continue, Israel is maneuvering to foil these talks and is trying to dictate its terms to the Arab parties. What is your opinion?

[Al-Surani] We do not have high hopes, but neither do we belittle the chances for a settlement. Israel can only dictate its terms if there is no effective Arab role. We believe that there is such an Arab role and there is Arab coordination, but it should be more effective so as to deny Israel the chance to indulge in such maneuvers. Israel wants to sidestep the Palestinian issue. It talks about the establishment of economic, tourist, and investment cooperation with the Arabs while the Palestinian issue is deferred. We must warn against that approach. Israel and the United States must recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, especially the right of self-determination. In our view, it is not a question of a confederation with Jordan. We want a confederation with the Arab states in order to be able to meet future challenges.

We want a settlement of the Palestinian question first. Then we can talk about Arab-Israeli relations. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will the negotiations reach a dead end, or will they be complicated and achieve limited solutions? How could the existing obstacles be ironed out?

[Al-Surani] We are not asking the United States to put pressure on Israel, and we are not asking Israel to give up anything. To give up something you would have to own it first; but whoever usurps something must give it back. What is required is implementation of the UN and Security Council resolutions and adherence to international legitimacy. Israel is not abiding by international legitimacy. It wants to tame the Arabs; but Israel is mistaken because the Arabs cannot be tamed by anyone. The Arab nation is capable of meeting all challenges. The Israelis are swimming against the tide. Although the whole world wants a settlement, Israel and, regrettably, the United States imagine that they can repeal the resolution equating Zionism with racism. It is as though the United States wants to reward Israel and give legitimacy to the Zionist Congress and its resolution that Palestine was a land without people and the Jews were a people without land and, therefore, there is no issue to negotiate. They want the Arabs to accept the Balfour Declaration and they want to deny the Palestinians their right to self-determination. That is a falsification of historical facts.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Clearly there is a unified Arab position regarding the Israeli maneuvers and high-level coordination is continuing. Does that not constitute a strong negotiating position in your view?

[Al-Surani] Yes there is an Arab stance and opposition to the Israeli maneuvers aimed at emasculating the negotiations. I believe the negotiations will enter a vicious circle if the United States does not intervene and play its part as a superpower rather than a catalyst. If the Madrid-Washington scenario continued, the negotiations would be futile and no progress would be achieved.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does that mean that the United States will abandon its earlier-announced role?

[Al-Surani] It will not abandon the negotiations, but we fear it might remain inactive. The Israelis said they did not want Madrid, so the negotiations were held in Washington. They said they did not want 4 December

and were given another date. Finally they have said that the negotiations should not continue in Washington and should be moved to the Middle East. We see that as appeasement not in line with the U.S. undertaking that it would be an honest, neutral mediator. We look forward to a strong, effective, and essential U.S. role. We know what the Israelis want. They want Arab-Israeli relations without giving back the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Have the current differences between the Palestinian factions divided the Palestinian people into supporters and opposers of the peace process? To what extent could that affect the position of the Israeli negotiators?

[Al-Surani] The Israelis have tried to create an alternative leadership to the PLO and to divide the Palestinian people, but they should not pursue their wishful thinking too much in that direction. Anyone who thinks that the Palestinian factions are divided is mistaken and does not know Palestinian democracy—and underestimates that democracy. The diversity of Palestinian views does not mean division. There are various views in every society, and we have them too, but we have one leadership upheld by everyone. They should not play this game because it will not succeed.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What if Israel called for elections now? They are contemplating municipal elections. Would you agree? And what is your position on the call for the formation of a municipal council for Gaza?

[Al-Surani] They are trying to fragment the issue. One day they speak of economic union, another day they speak of municipalities. We urged municipal elections before, but they refused; and when such elections did take place and the PLO members were elected, they tried to kill them. We know what happened to Nabulus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah and Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf.

Now they want to hold municipal elections in order to destroy the intifadah. We say to them: Elections? What for? We want self-determination, not municipal elections. If they are looking for representatives of the Palestinian people, they are there. There are some Palestine National Council members inside the occupied territory. They should allow them to participate in the political decisionmaking. [passge omitted]

Sha'th—U.S. 'Retreat' Dooms Talks to 'Failure'

TA1712183391 Jerusalem AL-NADWAH in Arabic 13 Dec 91 pp 1, 11

[Report on interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Cairo—In an exclusive interview with AL-NADWAH's correspondent, brother Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, said that recent U.S. steps toward the Palestinians are a retreat from previous positions.

Sha'th enumerated the recent U.S. positions that constituted a retreat, beginning with the refusal to grant him and his colleagues, members of the PLO, visas to Washington, "which was intended to suggest that there is no role for the PLO at this stage of the negotiations." There was also the postponement of the Budapest conference of countries that signed the Geneva agreements, along with other things.

Sha'th said: The Americans, who in the previous stages seemed to be intervening strongly in the details and proceedings of affairs, backed down and began giving the impression that they were leaving the parties to negotiate among themselves. But it appears that despite all the aid that they provide to Israel, they are not exerting any real pressure on the Israeli Government. Naturally, as the Palestinian party, this is harmful to us.

He added: Moreover, it seems they believe that the PLO achieved a great deal in the first round and gained an identity independent of Jordan. It became apparent to the United States that the delegations from outside and inside the occupied territories are, in fact, a single cohesive delegation. Hence, it began exerting pressure, such as depriving me and my colleagues of entry visas, talking about repealing the resolution equating Zionism with racism, and preventing the Budapest meeting at which the PLO was going to gain the status of an observer. This retreat hints that no pressure will be exerted on Israel and that the previous conditions still prevail.

Dr. Nabil added that contacts between heads of the Palestinian delegation and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] are continuing all the time. Moreover, as we know, PLO members are in the Palestinian delegation in Washington, so attempts to suggest that the PLO is not in the picture have failed.

On the other hand, Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that this U.S. retreat dooms this round of talks in Washington to failure, but the conference will continue and I believe that the conference's current course will change.

Hawatimah: Halt Settlements or Cease Peace Talks

LD1712201291 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The activities of the president now: President Chadli Bendjedid today received at the Presidency Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. Afterwards, Mr. Nayif Hawatimah held a press conference at the headquarters of the DFLP. What merits attention in his remarks is the comment that the Palestinian delegation negotiating in Washington should announce that it represents all the Palestinian people. Belkacem Jaafria reports:

[Begin recording] [Jaafria] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah said that the Washington negotiations are turning in a vicious circle, because Israel insists on negotiating only on self-rule under occupation.

[Hawatimah] The U.S. motion presented to the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem before it arrived in Washington sets as a basic condition for the invitation [of the delegation] that the Palestinian group should not discuss the prerogatives of self-rule on Palestinian land, on waters, and the natural resources in the Palestinian bank [West Bank] and the Gaza Strip.

[Jaafria] Hawatimah also said that the repeal of the UN resolution which considers Zionism as a form of racism is a painful blow at the Palestinian people and all the Arab states. This abrogation, Hawatimah continued, opens the door wide for breaking the resolutions of international legality, especially UN resolutions 181 and 194 which recognize the right of the Palestinian people to set up their own independent state.

The DFLP leader urged the Palestinian delegation negotiating in Washington to declare that it represents the Palestinian people, and that its reference is the PLO. Hawatimah said that the negotiating delegation should not get bogged down in formal and procedural processes, and should pose the substantial issue: a halt to settlement- building, or suspension of the Washington negotiations.

Hawatimah expressed the determinaton of the DFLP and other factions to continue the struggle for setting up an independent Palestinian state. In conclusion, he called for the convening of an Arab summit for reconciliation on the basis of a minimum common program. He affirmed the need for Palestinian unity on the basis of the resolutions of the previous Palestinian national councils. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on Implications of Silwan Events

TA1712170391 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 16 Dec 91 p 16

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Guidance Committee, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; date and place not given]

[Text] Q: What do you think about the recent events in Silwan?
A: What is happening is a continuation of the recent Israeli settlement policy which is targeted at sabotaging all efforts to achieve peace in the region.

Q: Then you think settlements are a step to obstruct the peace process?
A: Yes, I think it is one of Israel's steps to obstruct the peace process.

Q: Can you consider this action as a message addressed to the Palestinian people?
A: It is an Israeli message addressed to us saying the peace process will fail and we will transfer this message to the world. We have said that if Israel continues to govern the area by force rather than logic and law, then it will turn the area into a jungle.

Q: Does that mean that the Palestinian reaction will be different this time?
A: We are trying to convince the Palestinian people to treat the issues in a peaceful and political manner but we have noticed the Israeli actions make our attempts harder. We fear that a day will come when nobody will listen to us and that will be a catastrophe. It will lead us to a cycle of bloodshed and all parties will pay its price.

Q: What have you done about the settlement decision in Silwan?
A: The Committee for the Defense of the Land of Silwan took many steps to protect the area. We are drawing attention to the situation and applying pressure to have the settlers expelled from the area. We hope our actions will stop the Israelis from taking further actions.

Q: You called for popular participation to deal with the settlements, but now you are concentrating on world opinion and dealing with the world media, do you think this is enough?
A: I think the situation will improve with popular participation and this is an example of what we can do now and in the future.

Q: What is required by the Palestinian delegation in Washington in light of the Israeli measures?
A: The Palestinian delegation was informed that it was the Israelis who started this confrontation in Jerusalem, and since the Israelis started it, we have then give the question of Jerusalem a priority. We can delay discussing the final status of Jerusalem only if the Israelis stop their measures in the city.

Q: A large number of Silwan residents suggested that the negotiations stop for one day as a form of protest against the Israeli settlement policy. What do you think about this?
A: We informed our Washington delegation of the latest developments and suggestions. In turn, our delegation will contact the other delegates and the sponsoring countries and in due course a decision will be made.

Q: Do you think it is necessary that the Palestinian delegation increase its information campaign to draw attention to the settlement measures?
A: There are may steps the Palestinian delegation can take. In fact the delegation started to take measures to face the Israeli actions but we can't expose these measures to the media.

Q: Don't you think that the current American position regarding the Israeli procedural measures and settlements is a retreat from America's previous position regarding settlements?
A: We are not aware of any previous position but if we want to commit the United States to a particular position, then we have to commit ourselves here and face the settlements. To complain without taking any measures is

wrong. The people of Silwan need to protect their properties and draw worldwide attention to their problem. I am sure this action will move the less active people.

ICO Seen 'Settling Scores' With Palestinians

JN1812064691 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Commentary by PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY—WAFA political affairs editor: "What Is Behind Considerations, Positions?"]

[Text] What is taking place now in the U.S. State Department hallways raises two very important and serious questions. The first relates to Israel's insistence on ignoring the Palestinian delegation, and, consequently, the Palestinian people, and Israel's attempt to exclude them from the political map of the negotiations. This immediately leads to an infringement on the principle of land for peace. The second question relates to the U.S. position or confused view on the course of the current peace process. Within that context, the Arab position comes face to face with the Israeli position to determine the future of the negotiations and the future of the entire process.

Since the beginning, Israel has been laying obstacles on the path of the process with the aim of achieving two [as heard] objectives: To escape the critical moment, which is unprecedented in Zionist history. The success of the current process threatens the collapse of the idea and the dream—the idea of sectarian and religious distinctiveness, embodied in the dictum of God's chosen people which Zionism believes in and which the United States is trying, ignoring all facts in the process, to erase from the United Nations' files; as well as the dream of the greater Zionist Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates.

All these Israeli maneuvers and the emphasis on formal issues, regardless of how simple they may be, fall within the framework of that objective. Israel does not only oppose peace, but peace is also its Achilles' heel. Therefore, the provocative statements made by Shamir and other Israeli officials rejecting withdrawal from the territory in return for peace have always been the cornerstone for Israel's position. The Israeli endeavor to ignore the Palestinian delegation can be understood within that context. From the Israeli viewpoint, recognizing the Palestinian delegation and dealing with it means direct dealing with the owners of the territory Israel is occupying, and that dealing will lead to the occupation's withdrawal, something which hits at the heart of the idea and dream which we have talked about.

The question that is raised at this phase is: On the basis of which principle does the United States insist on continuing with the arrangements for the conference? In other words, is the principle of land for peace, which President Bush has announced and which is harmonious with the international resolutions and legitimacy, still the basis, or has that basis changed especially since there are no U.S. confirmations on this subject in the face of Israel's categorical denial of this principle?

This question does not stand on only one leg. It stands on another leg that raises a more important question on the Arab position, which stops at no limits. The question is not one of sick positions to settle scores, which the Gulf states have constantly affirmed and which emerged in all Arab and international forums, particularly in the Islamic conference in Senegal.

History does not forget or forgive. Exceeding the limit in deviations to the extent of abandoning everything, including the taboos and cherished things, is something which some people may dare to do at this turbulent phase. But those people cannot go too far. The Palestinians are not the only ones under threat, but the Gulf citizens and the entire Arab future are also under threat.

Therefore, settling scores with the Palestinian position during the Gulf crisis—which, according to all standards, was a balanced position—should not reach the extent of showing hostility to the Palestine question and betraying Jerusalem and departing from all values and concepts in dealing with the requirements of the Arab nation's central cause.

In political considerations, the immediate political phase does not dictate any position, especially if such a position concerns the strategic questions and substantive issues.

The Gulf states have created a special and amazing scene during the Islamic summit in Dakar, a scene represented by boycotting the Palestinian delegation and by shunning jihad in the final statement, as well as other amazing positions, which are very hard to understand unless they are viewed as part of a plan, in which the Gulf is participating, to destroy the PLO and cancel the question of our Palestinian people. This reminds us of the Arab states in 1948 and shortly before and after that year, and their position on that question. Although the picture may not be identical, the objective is. Otherwise, how can one understand this savage boycott and how can one understand the insistence on settling scores with the PLO? It is known that during the Gulf war, the Arab world had two or more positions, so why should hostility be shown only toward the Palestinians, and what is behind this, especially when we know that the political decisionmaking of certain Arab parties is not independent today, and it has never been.

Saudi Stance on ICO Statement Criticized

PM1712183091 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14-15 Dec 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Saudi Arabia, Jerusalem, and Jihad"]

[Text] When the Madrid peace conference was being convened, a group of eminent Saudi ulema issued a statement in which they totally rejected any reconciliation between Muslims and the Jews. They condemned participation in the conference in question. They

insisted on the jihad to liberate all Islamic holy places in holy Jerusalem from the Zionists' claws. And they said that the jihad is a duty imposed on every Muslim.

Four weeks after that statement Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stood firm against the inclusion in the final statement of the Islamic summit held in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, of any call for the jihad to liberate the occupied territories, thus torpedoing the holy Mecca declaration issued by the Islamic summit held in the holy capital in 1981.

We do not know whether or not their eminences the Kingdom's ulema, headed by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Baz, have been briefed on this official Saudi position. We believe that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which God has honored with the presence of the two holy mosques on its soil, cannot have opposed a call for the jihad to liberate the third holy mosque, especially as King Fahd started his enthronement by launching that call, which had a great impact on the sons of the Palestinian cause and the Arab and Islamic peoples.

We are amazed that the call to liberate Afghanistan should be regarded by brother Saudi officials as a jihad when the call to liberate the al-Aqsa Mosque, the first qiblah and the third holy mosque blessed by God, is not. That is, unless Palestine, its al-Aqsa Mosque, and its Dome of the Rock are not Islamic territory simply because the PLO did not back the U.S. forces in their intervention in the Gulf crisis—the intervention which led to the destruction of both Kuwait and Iraq and imposed a starvation siege on a fraternal Muslim people.

We expected to see a total separation between what happened in the Gulf crisis, over which Arabs and Muslims differed, and the issue of liberating Palestine and its holy places, which enjoys Arab and Islamic consensus. But it seems that Kuwait is dearer to the hearts of Saudi officials than al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, and the Ibrahimi mosque, so that its recovery—even by non-Muslim foreign forces—was a jihad. Whereas it is forbidden to use the term jihad—even verbally—in the resolutions of an Islamic summit.

We do not want a new fatwa about the jihad to liberate Palestine—it is an individual duty. We are just reminding the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whether eminent ulema or officials, of the need to adhere to the Mecca declaration, which freely said: "In the face of the aggression of Zionism, usurper of Palestine's territory and the other occupied Arab territories, we emphasize our determination to maintain the comprehensive resistance against that aggression, its schemes, and its practices. We also reject and condemn the policies providing that aggression with political, economic, human, and military support. We also reject any initiative not espousing the Palestinian option, represented by a just solution to the Palestine issue based on the recovery of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national territory under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. We also reject any attempt to put pressure on us or other world states to accept the status quo and surrender to unjust solutions. And we emphasize our determination to confront the aggression and pressures by all means; and to prepare ourselves to struggle for the sake of liberating the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and holy places and to recover the Palestinian people's inalienable rights emphasized by international legitimacy and the UN resolutions on Palestine."

We have nothing more to add. Certainly Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has a full copy of that declaration in the Foreign Ministry archives. And he also has copies of his father's statements, vanguard stances, and tireless efforts on the road of the jihad to liberate Palestine.

PFLP-GC Reacts to Israeli Raid in al-Biqa'

JN1712183091 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1732 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] A military spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At approximately 1330 today, Tuesday, 17 December 1991, enemy aircraft raided a position belonging to the Front in the al-Qir'awn area of Lebanon's al-Biqa'. The Zionist formation was composed of four aircraft which dropped 13 missiles, of which 10 exploded, and three timed missiles, of which one exploded later at 1400 of the same day. Engineering units are still working on the other two missiles. There were no human losses, but the material losses were significant.

The spokesman added that the PFLP-GC, which the Zionist enemy targets in its raids on the Front's constant and principled stances against attempts to liquidate the Palestine question, considers this raid at this particular time to be a direct result of the abrogation of the UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. The abrogation of the resolution came as a reward to the aggressor, who daily practices racism against our kinfolk in Palestine. These practices are known to the entire world. The most recent of them was the expulsion of peaceful Palestinian citizens in blessed Jerusalem and their replacement with Jewish emigrants.

Glory be to the martyrs. We pledge to continue the struggle on the road toward liberating the land and the human being.

Rally for Libya Planned at Syria's al-Yarmuk Camp

JN1712193591 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] In solidarity with the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the face of U.S. and Atlantic threats, Palestinian popular and professional organizations will hold a mass rally tomorrow, Wednesday, 18 December 1991, at 1700 at the al-Nujum Cinema in the al-Yarmuk camp, Damascus. All are invited.

Algeria

Interior Minister Says Elections Set 26 Dec

PM1612134591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Dec 91 p 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir by Qasiy Salih al-Darwish in Algiers; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Darwish] Can we say that the Guemar incidents have ended?

[Belkheir] I think that the group that carried out the operation is finished except for one or two people who are still at large. But the case will take time, as investigations are being carried out to find out exactly who is behind that operation.

[Al-Darwish] But what lessons can be drawn from the Guemar incidents?

[Belkheir] We can say that it is clear—of course, as a result of the current investigation—that members of the group are fundamentalists, as they include [Islamic] Salvation Front members, followers, and supporters. What we cannot say now is that the Salvation Front's leadership is involved in the matter. There are local indications, however, that that group belongs to the Islamic tendency.

[Al-Darwish] There is talk about the possibility of making a decision to dissolve the Salvation Front due to these incidents. Is there still serious consideration of that?

[Belkheir] Up to this point there is no thought of that, because we cannot issue a judgment about the Salvation Front's responsibility until the investigation has been completed and as long as no major facts or links have been proved against the Salvation Front. If something is proved against the Salvation Front, a decision must be issued against it. But we cannot issue a judgment now in that regard.

[Al-Darwish] We have noticed that up until now the election campaign has been very lukewarm, both on television and on national radio, and even at election rallies. Is that an indication that the upcoming elections will witness a very low turnout?

[Belkheir] With regard to the government, we are making huge efforts to ensure that the elections scheduled for 26 December will pass quietly and safely. And all necessary measures have been taken to enable citizens to perform their electoral duty.

True, the campaign launched by the parties is not strong on the ground, but with regard to the citizens, I personally believe that they will participate strongly in these elections, because they are fateful and historic elections.

[Al-Darwish] Some people believe that the elections' success or failure is linked to the Salvation Front's participation in them. What is your opinion?

[Belkheir] Every party has the complete freedom to participate or not to participate. We have 57 parties in Algeria; 49 of them are taking part. The Salvation Front—even though the Consultative Council has not finally decided on its participation—is operating on the scene as though it is entering the elections. With regard to its entry or withdrawal, as far as I am concerned it is like any other party and thus this does not affect the elections at all. What is important is citizens' large-scale participation.

[Al-Darwish] The prime minister has pledged since the government's formation to work to ensure that the elections are completely impartial and free. What guarantees or measures have you taken to ensure their neutral administration?

[Belkheir] Of course, ever since the day of his appointment the prime minister has announced that the elections will be impartial and free. And this is what we are working for now. And I personally as interior minister am working earnestly in this regard. We are doing this with the participation of all the parties. The best guarantee is the existence of the parties. Polling stations, the Interior Ministry, the constitutional council, and all the parties are taking part in the organization process. And consultations have been held with all of them and all the necessary measures have been taken. As for the administration, it will be very neutral.

[Al-Darwish] Despite all these assurances, some people still fear that the elections may not be held as scheduled. And as we heard, some Salvation Front leaders accuse the authorities of being behind the Guemar operation, in order to obstruct the election process.

[Belkheir] Whoever accuses the authorities of carrying out the Guemar attack is a liar. There is a reality, and anyone can see and judge it for himself. There is a gang which carried arms and carried out an attack, and there was a response. As for the elections, we are doing our utmost to hold them on 26 December. It is necessary that they be held on 26 December, but no one is perfect except God.

[Al-Darwish] Are you certain that they will be held on 26 December?

[Belkheir] I am certain that they will be held on 26 December unless a disaster takes place. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Guemar Situation 'Under Control'

LD1812044791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar announced in Guemar today that the situation is under control. The defense minister was speaking at the very place that was recently attacked.

Officials Arrest Criminal Group, Seize Weapons

LD1812110591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The security authorities in Algiers Province have arrested a group of criminals whose activities in and around the capital since September have involved the use of firearms and cold steel.

A statement by the public prosecutor of the Algiers Judicial Council says: Following the armed attacks in recent weeks in various parts of the capital, investigations by the judicial authorities and security police of Algiers Province have led to the detention of 11 persons and the identification of many members of the gang who are still at large and are being pursued. The authorities were able to seize various quantities of arms as evidence, including firearms, knives, radio equipment, military uniforms, a collection of medicines, 11 homemade bombs, and traditional Afghan clothing.

The detained persons are charged with carrying out armed attacks on a pawn shop in Hussein Dey, a tile factory in Gue de Constantine, and two gas stations in Birkhadem. They are also accused of armed attacks on two persons in Bouzareah. They have appeared before the Hussein Dey public prosecutor, and a judicial investigation was opened in which they, together with those still at large, were charged with the following crimes: inciting citizens to carry arms against state authorities; violating the territorial integrity of the homeland; leading an armed gang with the aim of violating state security; carrying arms in public; wearing military uniforms; the aforementioned burglaries; concealing criminals; handling stolen goods; and attempting premeditated murder. The judicial investigation will determine the punishment and the motive for these acts of aggression under these particular circumstances.

The statement by the public prosecutor of the Algiers Judicial Council added: In arresting these persons, or the members of this armed gang, the security authorities have again demonstrated their intention to establish security and public order in addition to protecting property and individuals, as is necessary for the defense of civil peace. For its part, in implementing the law impartially and firmly, the judicial system will issue its verdict on these crimes committed by the accused.

Egypt

Israeli Religious Affairs Minister Arrives

NC1812061691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2302 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Avner Sciaki, Israeli minister of religious affairs, arrived in Cairo tonight on a six-day visit. The visit is at the invitation of Dr. Butrus Ghali, who soon will be starting his term as UN secretary general.

U.S. Urged To Exploit UN 'Favor' to Israel

NC1812085091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0701 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on the U.S. Administration to utilize the resolution that repealed the earlier UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. It calls the repeal "a U.S. favor appreciated by Israel." The paper says the United States should use this favor to convince Israel to show more flexibility in the peace talks. The paper says these talks "regrettably" did not achieve any success other than their continuation, and no agreement has been reached to resume them after the Christmas holidays.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the UN General Assembly resolution was accompanied by another resolution passed by the Israeli Justice Ministry, which legalized the construction of settlements in the occupied territories. This resolution raises the question to Arab and world public opinion of whether this Israeli response will create an atmosphere suitable for peace. The paper emphasizes that the resolution equating Zionism with racism was not what prevented Israel from cooperating with the United Nations—the real reason was Israel's refusal to implement the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Middle East, and its rejection of the principle of land for peace despite its presence in Washington for peace talks.

Smuggling of U.S. Bills at Border Points Noted

NC1612115791 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 12 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by Mahmud al-Nubi]

[Text] Since 1988, most counterfeit dollars appearing in Egypt have been traced back to passengers crossing the border from Israel at the Rafah checkpoint, but authorities recently registered a significant increase in fake American money reaching Egypt from the opposite direction—the al-Sallum checkpoint, along the western border with Libya.

Brig. Gen. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Jazzar, a police officer in charge of security at Egyptian ports, says the fake money, particularly 100 dollar banknotes, is apparently the work of international gangs operating out of Cyprus. The counterfeit notes are exported to Libya and from there are brought to Egypt by passengers of various nationalities, including Libyans, Syrians, and Sudanese, several of whom have been arrested during the past two months.

But the Rafah checkpoint along the border with Israel remains a danger zone. He said that a number of attempts at smuggling fake American notes had been foiled there, and that the police were fully on the alert for further attempts.

Brig. Gen. Mustafa Khatir, chief of criminal investigations at Egyptian ports, called the outbreak of smuggling

and circulation of counterfeit banknotes an "alarming phenomenon." Fake American money is seized every day with passengers arriving from Israel at Rafah.

Other attempts at bringing in fake American banknotes are made at the al-Sallum checkpoint, and some passengers arriving from Libya to take the ferryboat from the port of Nuwaybi' on the Aqaba Gulf to Jordan were also found to be carrying counterfeit notes, he said.

Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Aghuri, assistant interior minister for the security of ports, reported a remarkable increase in attempts at bringing in fake money registered during the past month. He added that Rafah still leads the other border crossing points in the number of foiled smuggling attempts.

A number of Syrian traders who were caught at the port of Nuwaybi' with fake American money in their possession confessed to acquiring the counterfeit money in Libya. Al-Aghuri did not exclude the possibility of a connection between the fake money gangs and other gangs trafficking in drugs.

Al-Aghuri said that strict precautions were being taken at all land and sea terminals to prevent the infiltration of counterfeit notes "in order to protect the Egyptian market and the Egyptian economy."

Newspaper Interviews 'Somaliland' Leader

NC1612165791 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 12 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Abdurahman Ahmed Ali, president of the "Somaliland" Republic, Africa's most recent republic [as published], has stated that Somaliland will today submit an official request for full membership to the Arab League secretariat general.

Abdurahman Ali, who is visiting Cairo, stressed that his northern Somalia ruling regime is not separatist but aims to liberate the people. He said that his republic will not re-unite with Mogadishu or the rest of Somalia.

He praised Egypt's historic role in Somalia's renaissance, building schools, mosques, and Berbera Port, and paving roads.

Somaliland, he said, is an Arab Islamic state modeled on Egypt. After introducing a new constitution and submitting it for public referendum, it will establish a democratic multi-party system.

Abdurahman Ali said that he began his foreign tour in Egypt because it is a center of influence. He said that he met the shaykh of al-Azhar, who promised to give scholarships and send men of religion to Somaliland.

Abdurahman Ali, who will leave Cairo for London tomorrow, before going on to Paris and the Gulf, said that his country is studying the Egyptian constitution and parliamentary system to benefit from them.

Libya

Sirte Students Protest U.S., UK 'Allegations'

LD1712190191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Sirte, 17 Dec (JANA)—Students at al-Tahaddi University in the city of Sirte came out en masse this morning in a demonstration of anger at and denunciation of the fabricated U.S. and British allegations and threats against the Great Jamahiriyah.

The participants in the demonstration roamed various streets and squares of the city of Sirte, chanting slogans expressing denunciation of these tendentious allegations circulated by the United States and Britain against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah, and stressing that these allegations aimed to discredit the gigantic civilized gains and achievements of the great al-Fatih revolution in various fields, in the interest of the Libyan Arab people and the Arab nation.

The participants in the demonstration issued a statement expressing their anger at these allegations.

Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Confer on Dakar Results

LD1712184391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met this afternoon in Tripoli with his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

During the meeting, the results of the Islamic summit, which had convened recently in Dakar, were discussed, as well as the developments that the blessed Palestinian intifadah is witnessing inside the occupied territories, and the Zionist crimes against our people's sons and Islamic and Christian holy sites, especially in holy Jerusalem.

The discussions also dealt with the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas.

'Arafat Departs 17 Dec

LD1712235491 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him. The brother leader was informed of the new Palestinian, Arab, and international political developments. Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him left the Great Jamahiriyah this evening.

Sudan

Summer Agricultural Crop Season 'Success'

EA1412123091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1622 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 12 December (SUNA)— A senior Sudanese executive has described this year's summer agricultural season as a success. Agriculture Minister Ahmad 'Ali Qunayf said good production was secured in cereals such as sorghum and millet, which are the main staple food in the country. "Production is more than what is needed for national consumption and remarkable vertical expansion was attained this season in major crops in the irrigated sector, especially in sorghum, cotton, groundnuts and vegetables," he said.

Speaking to SUNA, Professor Qunayf further added that the suitable rainy season has also led to very outstanding results in improving pastures and upgrading animal production in traditional areas as well as upgrading forests' regeneration. He outlined the steps his ministry was taking in order to attain food security and to encourage farmers to expand in food production by securing all agricultural inputs, adopting a sound marketing policy by liberalizing prices and arranging priorities in favor of food crops. He said that, according to this trend, the area cultivated with wheat was raised by 150 percent And the area cultivated with sorghum saw an 180 percent increase.

Qunayf said one of the marked achievements of his ministry was the success of producing wheat under warm conditions of climate in Sudan, especially in the central heavy clay plain, a matter that opens the door for more expansion in this new environment. In order to augment the food crop mix, he said, they have successfully introduced maize which has now passed the test of success and is now expanding, especially in the irrigated sector, he said, and that they had realized integration of plant and animal by including animal production in the crop rotation of the irrigated schemes.

He denied allegations that Sudan was abandoning the cultivation of cotton, saying cotton will continue as an important crop in Sudan's agriculture. "The only changes introduced (?were) the result of our policy to gradually increase cotton production in the rain-fed sector and (word indistinct) reduce the areas under irrigation and shift the cultivation of cotton to the rain-fed sector because there it is less expensive and more productive," he said.

*Al-Bashir Appoints New State Newspaper Editors

92P40082A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the head of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council and who recently assumed the additional post of minister of information, has reshuffled the senior positions in two government newspapers, AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH and AL-INQADH AL-WATANI. He appointed al-Najib Adam Qamar-al-Din as chief editor of AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH, to succeed Muhammad Sa'id Ma'ruf, who became merely chairman of the board of directors. Qamar-al-Din was the editorial director of the paper before his appointment.

The chief editorship of the newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI was vested in Musa Ya'qub, one of the prominent writers of the National Islamic Front, who was recently expelled by Egyptian authorities and prohibited from entering Cairo after having written articles in the official Sudanese press considered instigative against Egypt.

It is still unknown whether Muhi-al-Din Taytawi, the former chief editor of the newspaper, will remain in his recent position as chairman of the board of directors.

Tunisia

Ghannouchi Emphasizes Nonviolent Intentions

PM1812110391 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Dec 91 p 4

[Interview with al-Nahdah movement leader Cheikh Rached Ghannouchi by Zuhayr Qusaybati in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Qusaybati] You have denied that the Algerian authorities deported you from Algeria. Does that mean that you will return to that country? And is it true that you have returned the Sudanese passport that you held to the authorities in Khartoum?

[Ghannouchi] We thank God that there is still in the Arab press a pulpit like AL-HAYAH which is eager to give the other point of view an opportunity, albeit on a very limited scale.

With regard to Algeria, I once again deny what some Arab pens unknowingly circulated, namely that I was deported from there.

In fact, I remained in Algeria as long as I have stayed in many other states. I stayed there in dignity. [passage omitted]

I left (Algeria) of my own wish, thereby denying a chance to the death squads assigned to me. And it was for the same reason that I left fraternal Sudan. I thanked its people for their hospitality. I also returned the passport to them and thanked them profusely.

[Qusaybati] What about your relationship with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the [Sudanese] National Islamic Front, and the Tunisian authorities' accusation that Khartoum has established training camps for your followers from among al-Nahdah cadres and fundamentalists?

[Ghannouchi] Al-Turabi is one of the Islamic awakening's contemporary symbols. And he is one of the contemporary Islamic generation's great masters and an ulema who has his own program and viewpoint in the contemporary Islamic movement. We have benefited from his knowledge and experience, just as we have benefited from others, even non-Muslims, with what suits our Maghreb reality, our Tunisian characteristics, and our ways of thinking and working. As for the training camps, they are delusions and part of the propaganda against al-Nahdah.

[Qusaybati] Do you approve of the method of "violence and terrorism" of which the Tunisian authorities accuse you? If not, who do you believe were the people who resorted to that method at Tunis University, where professors were attacked, so it was officially announced?

[Ghannouchi] Al-Nahdah is an intellectual, political, and Islamic scheme which has rejected and continues to reject verbal and physical violence as a way of thinking and achieving change. It called and continues to call for dialogue, shura [consultation], and all people's sacred right to freedom of belief and expression. It also calls for the formation of parties and associations for political, social, and cultural participation and alternation in power. It also calls for the arbitration of the people's will through the ballot box within the framework of democracy and human rights. Anything attributed to it (al-Nahdah) which conflicts with such an approach is a lie and consists of isolated, individual behavior which has nothing to do with us. [passage omitted]

[Qusaybati] What is important in this context is the announcement of the discovery of arms caches in Tunisia, where the authorities emphasize that they had opened a dialogue with all tendencies and were surprised by the violence.

[Ghannouchi] All that is part of a security scenario designed to incriminate and eradicate Al-Nahdah due to the ruling party's pyramid structure, its corruption, and its inability to compete with a growing, young movement. Al-Nahdah, as I said, is an intellectual, political, Islamic, and democratic scheme which rejected and continues to strongly reject physical and moral violence as a means of settling intellectual and political disputes. It calls for dialogue, shura, pluralism, and the arbitration of the people's will through the ballot box under international supervision. The question is, does the minority regime in Tunisia have the courage to engage in a democratic experiment like Algeria, Yemen, Jordan, or even Morocco? What kind of dialogue are they talking about? Are they talking about the prisons, banned newspapers, and outlawed parties? Are the parties of Ahmed Ben Saleh (Popular Unity), Mohamed Mzali (Liberal Republican), Bechir Essid (National Arab), El-Hani (Arab Vanguards), Wahma Hamami (Communist), and others termed violent, extremist parties so that their right to exist can be revoked and their members and leaders pursued? We are proponents of thought and dialogue, and nothing suits us better than an atmosphere of peace and democracy. [passage omitted]

Al-Nahdah Denies Ghannouchi Marries in Sudan

NC1612200491 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] The Tunisian al-Nahdah Movement has emphasized that Algeria has not expelled the movement's leader, Cheikh Rached Ghannouchi, despite pressure to do so. The movement has also denied press reports that the United States refused Ghannouchi an entry visa.

It emphasized that it had submitted no such request. The movement described an AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine slander campaign against Iraqi aid, and Cheikh Ghannouchi's marriage in Sudan as imagined and cheap intrigue.

Western Sahara

Polisario Says Morocco Obstructing UN Plan

LD1512101991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front today accused Morocco again of attempting to obstruct implementation of the UN peace plan by diverting Moroccan citizens to the Western Sahara.

A statement issued by the Sahraoui Information Ministry said that the Moroccan Government recruited 170,000 citizens to be transported to the Western Sahara in an attempt to register them as voters in the referendum. The statement pointed out that since the ceasefire came into effect in the Western Sahara on 6 September, more than 40,000 of these new settlers have been living in camps in the neighborhood of the four major towns. [passage omitted]

Negotiations May Replace Referendum

LD1612111491 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1930 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The West Saharan referendum might not be held if negotiations under way between the King of Morocco and Polisario Front leaders end with an agreement, an agreement—note well—which would mean the creation of a federation under royal authority with a Sahraoui parliament and government. This news has been learned in Brussels from European sources, and Julio Bernardez expands on it for us:

[Begin Bernardez recording] Community sources say that the king of Morocco and the Polisario Front are negotiating in order to avoid the referendum. These negotiations are supposedly supported by the new UN secretary general, the Egyptian Butrus Ghali, who apparently prefers these negotiations to the referendum. These negotiations supposedly consist of the king of Morocco being king of Morocco and of the Western Sahara, with

the two states keeping the same flag and the same postage stamps, but with a democratic parliament and a similarly democratic government being able to be elected in the Western Sahara.

The two parties come to these negotiations somewhat weakened. On the one hand, the Polisario no longer has the international support it had and less and less the help of Algeria; and the king, according to all the polls, could lose the referendum, which would imply the destabilization of the Alawite kingdom. [end recording]

Polisario Denies Negotiating

LD1612231291 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1930 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The existence of negotiations which, according to EC sources, King Hassan II of Morocco and the Polisario Front are carrying out and which TVE reported yesterday has not been confirmed by either of the two parties. While the top Sahraoui leaders have categorically denied the existence of such negotiations, official Moroccan sources have declined to make any comment or statement on the matter. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Ramon Almedros] Sources in the Polisario Front's Sahraoui government have categorically denied the existence of such negotiations. [video shows archive film of King Hassan, Polisario demonstrators and camps]

[Mahfoud Ali Beida, Saharan Arab Democratic Republic prime minister, identified by caption] I want to categorically deny the allegation and to that end I wish to clarify the following: Since the Marrakesh meeting of January 1989, there have been no direct or indirect contacts with the Moroccans, nor has any question concerning a compromise between the two parties been dealt with. [video shows Ali Beida speaking to unseen reporter indoors]

[Almedros] For their part, official Moroccan sources consulted by TVE news have declined to make any kind of statement or comment on the matter. [end recording] [video shows King Hassan]

UN Ruling on War Culpability Criticized

JN1812093691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has asserted that Iraq is seeking a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace with Iran in accordance with Resolution 598 as an integrated peace plan and an indivisible whole.

In an article today headlined "The Deal...and the Price," the paper asserts that Iraq has always called for implementing Resolution 598, away from any attempt to divide it or deal with it according to circumstances, and on the basis of linkage and clarity, and not through concentrating on a single clause, as Perez de Cuellar did in his biased, unprincipled report.

The paper adds that the Iranian regime was responsible for the outbreak of the war on 4 September 1980, as well as for its continuation until 8 August 1988. The clearest evidence of this is that the Iranian regime rejected all Security Council resolutions calling for ending the dispute and establishing a comprehensive, lasting peace between the two countries, starting with Resolution 497 passed on 28 September 1980 up to Resolution 598 issued on 20 July 1987, which the Iranian regime rejected for a year and did not accept until after it realized that it had lost the war and was defeated comprehensively and conclusively.

The paper points out that the report drafted by Javier Perez de Cuellar on 9 December concerning the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 reflects only a personal opinion that lacks integrity and honesty, and that it is not based on facts and legal evidence.

The paper adds that paragraph 6 of Resolution 598 asks the UN secretary general to consult with Iraq and Iran so as to task a neutral body to determine who is responsible for the dispute and to submit a report to the council—something that was not done by the former UN secretary general.

The paper adds: Our close acquaintance with Perez de Cuellar and our experience with him and his irresponsible, unfair practices and positions allow us to say with confidence that Perez de Cuellar issued his biased report about the implementation of Resolution 598 within the framework of a suspicious deal between Iran and the U.S. Administration, which he personally arranged and concluded—namely, the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Commentary Notes Repeal of UN Zionism Resolution

JN1712194891 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1635 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the new U.S. resolution—formally known as the new UN resolution—consists of one line repealing Resolution 3,379 of 1975 which labels Zionism as racist and a form of racial discrimination. One line says that Zionism is no longer racist, that Zionism is not racist. But, for the grace of God, the new resolution has only one line issuing this repeal and not demanding that we—Arabs and Palestinians—apologize to the Zionists or compensate them by way of rehabilitating them and expiating the heinous sin of the wrongful Zionism. We say this is the grace of God, as we do not know what will happen next. The one-line resolution is neither an ordinary resolution, simple or transient, nor one to be shelved; it is a resolution for investment, penetration, expansion, and boosting all that the Zionists want.

Are we blowing matters out of proportion due to the effect of the one-line resolution and because of the way it has been issued by the United States in the name of the United Nations? We are are not blowing matters out of proportion; there are Arabs who left the voting hall so as not to be embarrassed. Egypt, for example, has agreed to the U.S. resolution annulling the 1975 resolution. Thus, it walked out to avoid embarrassing, and costly, publicity. It also walked out in order not to vote against America's resolution, as it should have, because it is not supposed to and, in view of its ruler's subservience, it could not say no. Is it not a serious matter that there are Arabs among those who abstained to avoid saying no openly to America's resolution? This is why we are afraid of what is in store for us. Zionism will not be satisfied with the one-line resolution. Resolution 3,379 was explained, justified, and preceded by regional and international resolutions. This is a matter that Tel Aviv will not forget. Who will pay the price? It will be paid by those who do not care if the price is a homeland, people, or dignity, so long as it is people who will have to pay the heaviest price.

However, will the sellouts and relinquishers escape? Will they be spared by the racist Zionism for their services to it? The one-line resolution is particularly America's resolution. It is the resolution of whoever said yes, whoever's memory has failed, and whoever has been driven away by threats from the facts that run in our blood.

'Infraction' of Human Principles

JN1812092691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has asserted that repealing the UN resolution that equates Zionism with racism can never acquit Zionism of its aggressive approach which is reflected in its long criminal history and ugly, bloody practices.

In an article today, the paper says that acquitting Zionism of the charge of racism is a clear falsification of history and a deliberate infraction of all honorable human values and principles.

The paper adds that the United States, which stepped on the conscience of mankind when it launched its barbaric war against the Iraqi people, has continued its aggressive, racist

approach against our Arab nation and greatly rewarded the Zionist entity by issuing this biased resolution.

The paper adds that the Arabs who are subservient to U.S.-Zionist domination can now seek blessings at the wall of the White House because Washington knew how to humiliate them more and more before the entire world and their own peoples, instead of supporting them as a reward for their siding with the trench that fought Iraq and provoked the anger of their nations.

The paper asserts that the new resolution, which stigmatized what is left of UN prestige and shocked world public opinion, which knows the reality of Zionism and its ugly crimes against Arab Palestinians, has also revealed another important fact, namely that all the resolutions issued recently by the Security Council and other international bodies were not independent.

The paper regrets the submission of international representatives to U.S. threats and their mortgaging their independence and stands to these threats.

Cleric Kho'i Ailing; Baghdad Denying Outside Aid

AU1712151291 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Beirut, Dec 17 (AFP)—Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i, is seriously ill, but the Baghdad government has refused to let foreign doctors visit him, an Iraqi opposition group charged here Tuesday.

"The grand ayatollah has been suffering for three days from intestinal problems and vomiting," a statement from the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said.

The SAIRI charged that Iraqi authorities had rejected a request by Ayatollah Kho'i's private doctor to allow a foreign medical team to visit him.

"His doctor has been unable to reach a diagnosis and has asked for help from abroad, but the authorities in Baghdad have turned down the request and reinforced the inhuman siege around his home," the statement added.

Ayatollah Kho'i's son has said the 92-year-old cleric has been under house arrest for several days at his home in al-Kufah, south of Baghdad.

Rebel Radio Reports Marshland Ambushes, Gains

NC1712173991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1421 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Continuing their bloody ways, the regime's forces once again attacked the (al-Sahin) area, but our heroic revolutionaries confronted them, inflicting grave losses in life and equipment in several ambushes. Here are the losses inflicted on the enemies of God and the people:

1. The full destruction of [words indistinct];

2. The destruction and sinking of several boats;

3. The capture of many [word indistinct] with all their weapons; and

4. The capture of many of the regime's mercenaries as they were trying to flee the scene of the clash;

One of our heroic revolutionaries who joined the popular forces in confronting the tyrant forces' latest attack on areas near the (?al-'Amarah's city walls) said that the regime's men fled at the sight of a fight, noting that some even threw their weapons down when they fled. He added that some of the men joined the rebel ranks and affirmed that the morale of the regime's men is low and that they fear the popular forces' rapid and well-aimed blows.

In another development, a force of the tyrant's guard made up of three battalions [passage indistinct].

The Al-Andalus, Qurtubah, and Ishbiliyah Battalions, supported by several infantry units,tanks, and heavy artillery, recently attacked popular forces positions in the marshland. Our popular revolutionary forces laid several ambushes, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment. The attack was repulsed and the tyrant forces retreated to their posts, suffering defeat and shame.

O, our heroic revolutionaries, go forward until victory is achieved, God willing.

'Popular Forces' Repulse Attack

LD1712191491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The Iraqi popular forces, in repulsing an attack by Saddam's armed forces in al-'Amarah Province, killed a large number of Saddam's troops and captured plenty of light and medium weapons as booty.

According to a report from the central news unit, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, while announcing the above, added: During the attacks launched by the popular forces against the Ba'th Party headquarters in the al-Nahiriyah region of al-Basrah Province and in al-Najaf, seven Ba'th party members were killed and a number were wounded.

In addition, the Iraqi opposition forces, in the course of some operations along the al-Kahla-al-'Amarah highway, inflicted some losses and casualties on the Ba'thist forces.

Deaths of 80,000 Children Said Due to Blockade

JN1812070391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1737 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, appealed to the Arab health ministers to speed up the implementation of the resolution adopted at their meeting last October in Tunis on offering speedy medical aid to Iraq.

Following a meeting with the Arab League secretary general this morning, he said that the medicine needed to treat cancer patients has completely run out in Iraq and

that he has presented a detailed list in this regard to the Arab League secretary general. He also urged the secretary general to quickly intervene in order to secure needed items.

The ambassador noted that much of the medicine and vaccines needed by children have run out. This is threatening to kill or cause permanent disabilities to millions of Iraqi children.

He said that more than 80,000 children under the age of five have died so far.

He added that the unjust siege imposed on Iraq threatens to kill more children, elderly people, and women. This requires an Arab and world effort to lift the injustice and suppression done to the Iraqi people due to the insistence of some to continue the siege which has been imposed for one and a half years, despite the disappearance of all reasons, justifications, and excuses behind its imposition.

'Popular Demonstrations' Against Sanctions Noted

JN1812104691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Karkuk, Northern Iraq, 18 Dec (INA)—The sons of the city of Karkuk, in al-Ta'mim Governorate, have staged popular demonstrations to express their extreme anger at and denunciation of the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq and its unyielding people.

At a gathering in front of the al-Ta'mim branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, they asserted their absolute readiness to make sacrifices and to defend great Iraq under the banner of God is great, which was raised by President Saddam Husayn.

A large crowd took part in the demonstrations. Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz, member of the regional command and official in charge of the northern organizations of the party; and Yasir Hasan Sultan, al-Ta'mim governor, hailed the demonstrators.

Exploding War Bombs Causing Civilian Casualties

JN1712133391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Mosul, northern Iraq, 17 Dec (INA)—The competent authorities at the Civil Defense Directorate in Ninawa Governorate have defused 3,971 unexploded bombs of various sizes and types which were indiscriminately dropped by the aircraft of treachery and aggression on citizens and residential neighborhoods in Ninawa Governorate during the wicked 30-state aggression.

In a statement to INA, the civil defense director said that the explosion of large numbers of 500-, 750-, and 2,000-pound bombs have caused the martyrdom and severe wounding of large numbers of women and elderly people. Among those martyred by these bombs, he noted, were 10 children aged between two and nine years old. These explosions also caused burns and physical mutilation, he said.

The civil defense official affirmed that the unexploded ordnance disposal detachments working at the directorate managed on 15 December to properly handle and defuse 14 cluster bombs dropped on the village of Ba'wizah, which is affiliated with the subdistrict of Tall Kayf in Ninawa Governorate. He pointed out that the defused unexploded bombs which were dropped on residential neighborhoods in Ninawa Governorate by hostile aircraft targeted the neighborhoods of al-'Amil, al-Kafa'at, al-'Arabi, al-Wahdah, and Wadi al-'Ayn, as well as some villages in the districts of Tall 'Afar, Sinjar, Shaykhan, Hamadaniyah, and Tall Kayf, and the subdistricts of al-Qayyarah and al-Bi'aj.

In a related development, the civil defense departments in al-Basrah Governorate have managed to defuse 26,231 shells, missiles, mines, and cluster bombs dropped by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic troops on various parts of the governorate.

In a statement to INA, the civil defense director said that the competent authorities also found a large number of barrels containing high-explosive napalm material in al-Zubayr and Safwan. The explosion of some of these barrels, he maintained, had caused the death of hundreds of civilians. He added that the invading troops planted modern mines and boobytraps on the perimeters of some highways and in the southern desert, causing the death of hundreds of shepherds and farmers.

Ordnance Defused in al-Anbar

JN1812124591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1103 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Al-Ramadi, 18 Dec (INA)—Specialized technical organs in al-Anbar Governorate, 120 km northwest of Baghdad, have defused 21,678 cluster bombs, guided missiles, and various ordnance dropped by the U.S.-Atlantic alliance forces on residential and agricultural areas in the governorate during their aggression against Iraq. [passage omitted]

ICRC Urged To Aid Woman Detained by Kuwait

JN1712162791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has urged the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Geneva to take urgent measures to visit Iraqi citizen Mrs. Huda 'Abbas Samawi al-Ta'i, who has been held by the Kuwaiti authorities since last June, and to work to secure her release.

In a message addressed to the ICRC mission in Baghdad today, the ministry affirmed that the tragic situation of Iraqi citizens residing in Kuwait and the inhuman practices being carried out against them make it incumbent on the ICRC, the international community, and humanitarian and international organizations to immediately intervene. They must put pressure on the rulers of Kuwait and their repressive departments to halt these inhuman practices and to make them comply with the Geneva Conventions of 1949. [passage omitted]

Correction to Coup Reports 'Ridiculed' by Dailies

JN1712092791

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Coup Reports 'Ridiculed' by Dailies" published in the 16 December Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 40:

Column two, paragraph two, sentence one, make read: ...of 17 July 1968 until this moment. (correcting year)

Palestinian Position at Talks 'More Intransigent'

TA1812115191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Official sources in Jerusalem said this morning that no breakthrough had been achieved in the Washington talks. However, the fact that the two sides are prepared to go on with their dialogue represents progress. The sources said the talks will probably be resumed in the middle of next month, although there is no sign that the talks with the Palestinians are getting past the stage of discussions in the corridor. The sources in Jerusalem say the position of the Palestinians now is more intransigent than in Madrid and at the beginning of the Washington talks. This is apparently for fear of the extremists in the Palestinian camp, the Jerusalem sources say.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 18 December adds: "In today's sessions, the Israelis will propose resuming the talks in mid-January or thereabouts. In order to arrive at an agreement to this effect, Israel will be willing to conduct the next round of talks in Washington, as the Arabs demand, despite its position in principle that they should be held in the Middle East or nearby."]

Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Health Minister Ehud Olmert if Israel will not lose points in U.S. public opinion by coming home, when even the Syrians are prepared to stay on in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Olmert] It shows only how patient we have to be with this whole process and how we must be willing to take time and not to expect any quick and rapid resolution of these problems.

[Katzenell] Is Israel losing points again in U.S. public opinion because it's calling off the talks at a time when even the Syrians say they're prepared to stay on in Washington?

[Olmert] No, I don't think so. I think that there is an understanding that we are making an effort, but they don't need to consult with their government because they have a position and they're not going to move one millimeter. I think that we have really done a great deal in terms of concentrating on the negotiating process, but we have warned from the outset: We can't keep this process going on forever without occasional consultations with the Israeli Government. And so, we are not ending this; we are just asking for a break so that the delegations will be able to report fully to the cabinet and to get further instructions.

[Katzenell] Is it going to take U.S. intervention to solve this deadlock?

[Olmert] The worst possible thing that can happen to the whole process is that it will be resolved by outsiders, no matter who they are. Of course, we hold America in great esteem and we appreciate the President, but it's a matter of how we want this process to develop. Are we going to call America every time there is a dispute? So, it would indicate the Arabs that they don't need to reach any understanding with us because there's always America to resolve it, and that's bad. [end recording]

Levi Meets With Bush on Guarantees, MIA's

TA1712181891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Report by Qeren Neubach from Washington]

[Excerpt] The meeting between Foreign Minister David Levi and U.S. President George Bush lasted only 20 minutes. Still, a number of issues featured, among them the loan guarantees to finance housing for new immigrants, the urgent need for which David Levi emphasized; the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's; and, of course, the peace process. Levi was asked after the meeting what the President had told him on the matter and whether he had stressed the urgent need to delve into matters of substance. This was Levi's reply:

[Begin Levi recording] Since the matter does not involve any other foreign element and it is an Israeli initiative, which we are promoting, I pointed out that our desire is to advance the peace process and that we are indeed doing just that. There is similarly an essential need to stress and issue instructions—in a clear and unambiguous manner—that the parties must resolve their problems, which is what direct, face-to-face negotiations without preconditions are meant for. I am pleased that the President said that this principle was indeed acceptable and was the guideline. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Levi further thanked Bush for his efforts toward the repeal of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. [passage omitted]

IDF Spokesman Denies Report on Missing Soldiers

TA1812085491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 91 p A3

[Report by Gay Bekhor and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The Israeli army spokesman yesterday dismissed the report aired by Lebanese radios stations and Radio Monte Carlo about "five Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon" as "unfounded and sheer nonsense." [passage omitted]

Arens Asks Settlement Leaders To Urge Restraint

TA1812134791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The defense minister has called on the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to exert their influence on the settlers to exercise restraint and avoid extreme reactions and activities that will sharpen tension in the territories. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the defense minister summoned the settlement leaders to a meeting in the Knesset and told them that the actions being taken in the

field damage their joint aims for the future of the territories without achieving anything. Our correspondent reports that the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will convene Sunday to discuss the situation.

Settlers Enter Arab Village Past IDF Roadblock

TA1812064491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] A convoy of settlers' vehicles passed through the village of al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah a short while ago, despite the fact that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had closed off the road with a sand bank. On their way through the village, the settlers distributed to the residents leaflets stating that they intended to continue using the road because it shortens their way.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the IDF did not prevent the settlers from driving through the village, but detained them for several minutes at a checkpoint at the outskirts of the village.

Settlers Form 'Security Patrols,' Mark Arab Homes

TA1812114391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 91 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A forum of 60 representatives of various settlements (including 'Ofra, Bet El, Dolev, Ma'ale Levona, Talmon, and others) met on Monday and decided to start breaking through roads which had in recent years been blocked by the Army. The forum also decided to conduct "security patrols." The members of the forum, all of them officers in the reserves, divided the Binyamin District into 12 zones and each settlement was assigned the task of patrolling its own access roads.

Dov Kalmanovich, a resident of Bet El and one of the leading members of the forum, told HA'ARETZ that the patrols are designed to provide security to settlers who leave their homes in the morning and return in the evening. "We will not replace the Army. Every incident will be reported by radio to the nearby settlement and subsequently to the Army. Our intention is not to clash with the Army but to provide maximum security to the settlements."

Settlers have marked over 100 houses of Arabs in the "Psagot triangle," along the road leading from Bet El in the north to Jerusalem in the south, in the last few days. Numbers were spray- painted in visible places, to allow for the correct identification of the houses when reporting to the Army about stone-throwing incidents.

The Binyamin Regional Council has informed settlers that henceforth they should regard every stone-throwing incident as the preamble to a gunfire attack. The council took this step after learning that the shooting of Tzvi Klein had been preceded by a stone thrown at his car to slow it down. Council officials have come to the conclusion that this modus operandi will be used in attacks in the future and that settlers should be forewarned accordingly. [passage omitted]

Two days ago, settlers left the trailers which had been placed in Rehelim two weeks ago. According to the agreement with the defense minister, two tents with 10 to 15 settlers are currently located some 200 meters from the military outpost on the site.

Plan to Settle West Bank Military Outpost Denied

TA1812105691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Dec 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Avi Bnayahu and Yoram Bar]

[Excerpt] At this stage, the defense establishment has no intention whatsoever to civilianize Har Manoah in the West Bank, authoritative sources in the Defense Ministry asserted yesterday. Commenting on reports mentioning such a possibility, the defense sources said: "There have been no deliberations in the last few days concerning the civilianization or establishment of additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria. A military unit is currently stationed at Har Manoah, near Qiryat Arba', and there are plans to civilianize the site in the future although, as noted, no decision to this effect has yet been made. [passage omitted]

EC Signs Over 7-Year, $205 Million Loan

TA1812105391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by Marit Gilat]

[Text] Israel will receive a $205-million loan from the EC for a period of seven years, according to an agreement signed by Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and an EC representative two days ago. As part of the agreement, Israel will receive an extra $36 million to subsidize the interest on the loan.

The loan is part of the aid granted by the EC to the countries affected by the Gulf war, which had been pledged during the war by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

King Husayn Interviewed on Current Issues

JN1712204391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1833 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified REUTER and VISNEWS reporter in Amman on 16 December—recorded, in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Majesty, despite the deadlock between Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, how do you assess the performance, so far, of the talks in Washington, and do you believe that they are serving their purpose?

[Husayn] I believe a good beginning is evident in Madrid, and later on in Washington. Obviously, we are at the very, very beginning of what appears to me to be a very long and arduous process. And, at the same time, it is fairly obvious to me that there are some basic errors and they need to be corrected. For example, the Israeli approach that they would like peace for peace is basically and very seriously flawed, because we are talking about occupied territories, the subject of Security Council Resolution 242, the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war. So, you cannot have peace for peace. You have to have the return of land to the people to whom this land belongs in implementation of international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions, and in return obviously then peace can be attained.

There is another argument which has surfaced recently regarding the formation of the delegations. I believe our position is very, very clear, and we have started on the premise that there are two tracks, a Palestinian-Israeli one, and a Jordanian-Israeli one, as is the case with the rest of the Arab states. Just as an example, what has Jordan, in the face of this argument that the Israelis put across time and again, got to do with Gaza? The head of the Palestinian delegation within the joint delegation under the umbrella of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation comes from Gaza, and there are representatives there of Gaza, and Gaza is an important element in resolving the Palestinian dimension of the problem as it pertains to Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil under occupation now by Israel. I think that unfortunately there is a lot of waste in terms of time and effort in what appears to me to be maneuvering at this stage, rather than entering into substance. And, I hope that this will follow none the less soon.

[Reporter] Recently, the Israelis have been stressing that the Palestinian problem could be solved within the context of Jordan. And, what is happening now in Washington, with this corridor diplomacy, the Israelis insisting that they would only talk to the joint delegation, and not as separate delegations. So, is Jordan going to insist and maintain this position that the two track approach has to be the basis and has to go on throughout the talks as agreed upon before the talks started in the Spanish capital?

[Husayn] This is precisely how it started, and this is precisely how it has to go. And, once again the relations between Jordan and Palestine are extremely close. But, on the other hand, it is very, very clear and very obvious that we are talking about two tracks, one concerning the Palestinian dimension of the problem, and that is a responsibility on the Palestinian people and their delegates to the joint delegation. And, as I just mentioned, for example, where does Jordan fit into the Gaza problem? [Words indistinct] Palestinian delegation is from [words indistinct] and there are other members there, and we are talking about occupied territories, occupied in June of 1967 and the rights of Palestinians on these territories that have to be dealt with and addressed.

The question is not anything but the return of these territories and the rights of their people to be fully recognized there. And then you can have movement toward the comprehensive peace that we are all seeking.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, are you disappointed that the United States did not take a more assertive role in solving the dispute in Washington? And do you plan to ask the co-sponsors to intervene?

[Husayn] I do not know how things will go, but obviously the sponsors would have to look at matters as they progress if things do not continue in a positive way. And again, there is a big question: How come it was a combination of the United States as a full partner in the Camp David accords, together with Egypt and Israel, and why is suddenly the United States unsuitable as a venue for these negotiations? I believe that it is fairly obvious that the sponsors have a responsibility, and now we are of course talking about the bilateral negotiations, and hopefully we will be looking at the multilateral ones some time very, very soon, where many problems could be addressed well beyond what is now confined in these talks and the foundations on which they are based.

[Reporter] So, does that mean you are satisfied with the role of the United States, so far as in terms of what is happening in Washington?

[Husayn] So far so good, and I believe it is still early times, as I say, and I think that there is a long, very hard road ahead of us, with extremists on either side of the divide, trying their best to destroy any chances for progress toward peace. But at the same time, there is a will, and there is a direction that the world has taken for the establishment of peace and resolution of problems critical in any region of this world threatening peace in the world. And I believe that, God willing, we will keep going.

[Reporter] Israel is insisting that it would like the peace talks moved to the region. At what stage would you agree to move them to the region, and what kind of progress would you like to see before they arrive to the region, or they come to the region?

[Husayn] I might have here to repeat what I suggested, that the venue is not very important. The important thing is the substance. With modern technology, it is

very, very easy to be on top of situations and to deal with them adequately. Distance does not mean very much indeed. And, as an example, the Camp David accords were reached ostensibly in the United States, when it was agreeable to Israel to have it not only as a venue but to have the United States as a full partner in these talks. So how come now it is not suitable to have talks in the United States, for example. I believe that that is the venue that has been chosen, and should be the venue that will see us make extensive progress before looking at any other alternative. We cannot keep moving from one location in the world to the other. It is physically impossible, it is time-consuming, it is a very heavy burden. And I believe that in terms of direct negotiations here in the region: A. Palestinians cannot negotiate under occupation and duress; and B. it is physically and emotionally impossible at this stage to even arrange for such meetings to take place immediately in the vicinity. Until such time as we have covered a lot of ground and seen results, and then, in time maybe we will look at it. But, right now, it has to be there, and I hope that the multilateral negotiations that are going to involve many countries in the world, I understand, including countries in this region, will be probably much larger in terms of the participation than would have been the case in regard to the original ideas that we had about an international conference with the five permanent members of the Security Council only supervising the issue or the process to resolve the crisis here. I believe that you have everybody in the region, you have maybe the five permanent members, in addition to others from different parts of the world who are interested in peace in this area. And, therefore, there would be a chance to look at problems in a manner that were not even possible when we visualized the original conference that we are talking over many years.

[Reporter] Can Your Majesty describe your vision of the relationship between Jordan and the self-governing Palestinian authority in the occupied territories during the transitional phase that will be agreed upon during the bilateral talks? And, then what sort of future links do you see binding the two people?

[Husayn] I can only say that the bonds and the ties are extremely strong and they are very real and they are the result of history, of facts on the ground, of people being members of one family. I believe that events in the recent past have brought us closer together than ever before. And, maybe, for the first time we have a feeling that we have to rely on ourselves first. And I think that a lot of the movement that we have seen recently has been the result of the attachment of Palestinians to their soil, despite extremely difficult conditions over many, many years. And I believe that's no mean thing to have achieved over all these years under impossible conditions. So, I believe that these are the super-patriots, the people who have stuck it out, the people who have the courage now to stand up and speak of their cause and present it in an adequate manner to the world. And, nobody can, or should, have any right to take the higher moral ground as far as they are concerned.

Of course, we are talking about, also, a new development, and that is that Palestinians and Jordanians, in particular, these two elements, be they in the occupied territories or in the diaspora, have the feeling that they have to rely on themselves first, as opposed to the ideas that all of us may have had and the visions of receiving the kind of support from others in our region, among our brethren, at least in a similar way as Israel has always received help from the world Jewry as was the case over all the recent past and recent history. We have to rely on ourselves, and I believe we are shouldering our responsibilities. And as a result of working together, a lot of shades of darkness in the past have disappeared, are fast disappearing. And there is renewed confidence and hope in terms of the future. [Words indistinct] have to deal with two problems: One in the bilateral negotiations. There is a Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem there, as it pertains to the occupied territories, and on the Arab-Israeli one, as it pertains to the states involved in the immediate vicinity. But, when we look at the multilateral talks, I believe that we will have a chance to look at the whole region. Palestinians from the territories are presenting and defending their case regarding their rights on their soil. In other words, the territories occupied since June of 1967 and involved and covered in Security Council Resolution 242.

On the other hand, if we are talking about the regional solution and to the problem and peace in the broadest context possible, and here I should not forget, obviously, that in these negotiations we are also talking about the other territories occupied by Israel in that war as they belong to other Arab states, or since, be they Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese, and so on.

But on the multilateral level, I think there are other issues that have to surface, including Palestinians in the diaspora, which is, obviously, a subject that has to be discussed: people, their rights wherever they are, resolution of their problems. And, talking [word indistinct] for about and trying to lay the foundations for the kind of peace that future generations can live within and enjoy and protect within this entire region.

[Reporter] But the Palestinians would obviously need Jordan during the bilateral phase and during the interim self-rule. So, on what basis are the Jordanians ready to cooperate with the Palestinian self-governing authority which is going to emerge as a result of the talks?

[Husayn] We are not only ready to help. We have always been ready to help and we have always been committed to the cause of Palestinian rights and we'll do everything we can to help them, be they Palestinians in the occupied territories, as, hopefully, they begin to assume their responsibilities on their soil, or our larger family wherever they do exist. Here in Jordan, of course, we speak of, and we mean it, of one people and one family regardless of their origins.

[Reporter] First of all, as the multilateral talks are concerned and in view of the developments in the Soviet Union, what

are the realistic chances of holding the meetings there and how do you view the role of the Soviet Union as a cosponsor of the peace talks at this stage?

[Husayn] Well, so far we are going ahead with the ideas as have been put across in terms of the timing and the venue for the beginning of the multilateral talks. And that only God knows.

[Reporter] So, you think it is still feasible to convene it in Moscow?

[Husayn] Yes.

[Reporter] Despite the developments regarding the new commonwealth and disintegration?

[Husayn] I think there are very interesting developments taking place, but so far I do not believe that there is any change, and should it occur, obviously we will have to deal with it as it comes along.

[Reporter] A year ago Your Majesty said that Jordan's position with regard to the Gulf crisis was misinterpreted by many Western, Arab, and Gulf countries. A year later, are you satisfied with the seemingly changing attitude of the West toward Jordan, and what will it take to get back on track with other Arab and Gulf countries, namely, Saudi Arabia?

[Husayn] With regard to the Jordanian position and attitude, I believe you made it as clear as you could. If we succeeded in some areas, and I believe we have, you can thank God the crisis, as devastating as it was, came against a background of this country and its history and its credibility, and its stand and principles and its very clear position regarding the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war—the subject we are talking about now as regards the Israeli-Palestinian and the Israeli-Arab dimension of the problem—but equally everywhere else in the world, and obviously, as far as the occupation and invasion and annexation, temporary as it was of Kuwait by Iraq. But we tried our very best to reverse the process peacefully and to deal with it. And all this is in the past. And I believe that the outside knows us better and understands more clearly where we stand. As regards our Arab brethren, well, there is not much more I can do, or in fact, we can do. But facts stand clear not only in our minds as we live them, but, I hope, that eventually they will sink in; and I believe that many of our brethren in the Arab world, those who are aware of what has happened, once they are able to assess exactly what did happen, will realize that they have wronged us terribly. I would like to say here categorically that as far as Iraq is concerned, Iraq is a very, very important part of the Arab world. And here I am not talking about any individuals or group in power or whatever. I am talking about the Iraqi people. And as far as the Iraqi people are concerned—men, women, and children—their cause is one that has got to be addressed. And we just cannot look the other way at the suffering of these people, our brethren and our people, in the same way that we were as unhappy with the suffering of the Kuwaitis or anybody else, or with the fragmentation of the Arab world, albeit for a period of time, we hope.

I believe that the final judgment will come from people, maybe in our lifetime, maybe long after we are gone, and maybe an understanding of everything that has happened. But a major area of concern has been for me that the wounds created by everything that has happened do not remain bleeding and increase. After all, we all lived this period, we'll not last forever. And this is inevitable, but it is future generations that have to live together. And unfortunately, this period has seen a lot of damage done, which also we tried to avert among the many that we tried to avert to the best of our ability.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, there is wide speculation that the Islamic summit that convened in Dakar could have helped in setting relations back on track, or helped in warming up relations. We have noticed that many Arab leaders and Gulf leaders stayed away from that summit. And we have also noticed that the level of Arab reconciliation is standing at square one. So, what went wrong, and at what level would you like to see the Arab relations go back, I mean?

[Husayn] I believe that the Islamic summit at Dakar was an important moment in history and an important development and looking at it at this point in time, I am happy that I was able to go there. I would have suggested that there should have been a more important Arab presence there, particularly since that is the first time that such a meeting was held in that part of the Muslim world, important to us all. And, at the same time, it was well attended by the many Muslim leaders.

In any event, we presented our views regarding the present and future, and we hoped that regarding the future, somehow, we can all look at what is important; what is important is people, what is important is their future, what is important is more than individuals and their feelings, be they right or wrong. We cannot move in the opposite direction and swim upstream in a world that is moving towards greater democracy and popular participation in power. And, there is so many changes that we should realize and appreciate and understand.

At the moment, the Arab world has resources within it. It could be a golden age for this entire area if we complement each other, if we work together, if we try to build for a better future instead of live in suspicions and fears of each other and continue to have complexes of broader problems that have to be resolved, once and for all, put behind us. And if we lose this chance, years from now, when the area is not as important as it is to the rest of the world, then what do we do? This is a period of building and should be regarded as such.

On the other hand, we've seen the world. We've seen the changes, we've seen the changes that have occurred. I believe that many forms of government are a thing of the past: dictatorship as such, autocratic rule maybe, the single party system, ideological armed forces. We should take lessons from all these developments and really

concentrate on the human being and his rights and serving his cause, that of generations to come in this entire region. And, I hope that in some way or another that Jordan in its present struggle will somehow be able to contribute by making of itself an example. We're facing tremendous difficulties, but we are determined to keep on, hopefully, a good example to others, and, hopefully, we will inspire others to move and reassess so that we continue to move with the rhythm of the world rather than stop or retrench in a manner that could only spell disaster, sooner or later.

[Reporter] The Maastricht summit called for an end to Israeli settlement buildings in the occupied territories in return for an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel. To what extent is that proposal acceptable to Jordan, and how feasible are its chances of success as a confidence-building measure in the peace process?

[Husayn] I believe that it's totally unbelievable that these settlements continue on a territory that is meant to be occupied, which is occupied, and should return to its people while there is a process to try to deal with the problem in all its aspects and seek the return of this territory to its people in return for peace. And here, once again, let me say, in order to create the climate for peace among people on both sides, the children of Abraham in this case. So continuing these settlements and continuing acts of provocation are really detrimental to a process that might be, and a chance that might be our last chance, and one that has never loomed as large as it is right now for all of us to really move towards establishing the kind of peace and the kind of future for all people in this region that is their right, I believe.

I believe that to continue to create obstacles to peace is something that the world will judge and the world is looking at what's happening.

[Reporter] So what will your suggestion be as a confidence-building measure in this peace process? I mean if this is not feasible apparently because of the settlement drive, so what would you suggest as a confidence-building measure on the two sides?

[Husayn] I believe that confidence-building has to come from both sides, and I would dare to suggest very clearly that as I look at the scene on the other side of the divide, for the first time, maybe, in many, many years, it is very clear to me that people do not know how to handle the issue of peace. They may be worried, they may be concerned, they may be afraid, they may be confused in a way. But I hope that all this will end soon because there is this change and the chance is for people, peoples on either side of the divide, to enjoy their rights and live in human dignity, and live in peace.

[Reporter] What is Your Majesty's short-term expectation of the European Community's role in the peace process, now that its efforts at political and monetary union seem to have succeeded at the time being, and the Soviet Union appears to be collapsing?

[Husayn] I believe that when we speak of the multilateral dimension of the talks, the next phase, Europe, in addition to other important powers in the world, will be involved, and I hope that their contribution will be a major one in helping shape the future of this area and the world.

[Reporter] How does Your Majesty view the regional and international implications of UN moves to repeal the Zionism-as- racism resolution, expected to be carried out at any moment, and how does this reflect on the new role assumed by the United States as an honest [word indistinct] and peace broker in the peace process?

[Husayn] We are watching what is happening with interest, obviously, and I really do not know how it will work out but I read some while ago something about the background of this problem as it arose, and obviously there are actions and acts that have taken place, and continued to take place, that are unacceptable in this region. But, on the other hand, the origins of the problem as it came to the United Nations, the repeated suggestion is that it was an Arab initiative. In fact it was not an Arab initiative. It was, if I am not wrong, a Soviet initiative at a certain point in time, that brought this whole resolution into focus until now, by its adoption then and the continuation of it. So, unfortunately, again the Arabs have come to be blamed, but maybe they were not the initiators of the moves that brought this resolution in the first place [words idistinct].

[Reporter] In an interview last year, Your Majesty mentioned that during the course of the 1980's, Jordan was hoping to exert a moderating influence on the Iraqi leadership in terms of regional and international policy. Can you see a role for Jordan at the present time in trying to bridge the gap between Iraq and the West in an effort to assist the Iraqi people out of their present predicament?

[Husayn] Well, let me be very, very frank. I don't think we succeeded in either. Our attempts were genuine, honest, concerned, surprised, shocked, worried. But as we look back, we feel that we neither succeeded in getting the Iraqis to move in terms of their leadership in a manner that might have been advisable and might have been the reason for events reversing themselves peacefully and then in a different manner to everything that has happened or even not taking action in the first place; nor were we able to convince others to try another way. [sentnce as heard] So, I really do not overestimate our abilities in terms of the future. But I would like here to point out our real continuing concern for everybody in this region, but in particular at this point in time, the people of Iraq, all of them. And this has nothing to do with anything except the fact that, fortunately, some seem to begin to feel more and more the need to address the needs of the Iraqi people themselves who have suffered greatly and continue to suffer.

[Reporter] So as winter approaches and the Iraqis are still suffering under UN sanctions, what is your message to the world?

[Husayn] I believe that this problem cannot continue. It is really a problem that has got to be addressed. I think only the Iraqis can look after their own affairs, and I hope that in any event there would be a time very, very soon when the needs of the Iraqi people will be addressed on a humanitarian level in a manner that it is compatible to the needs of these people. And I hope that the two disasters I have lived through will never repeat themselves again: 1967 and 1990.

[Reporter] Now Jordan's democratic march has entered its third year. Are you satisfied with the results so far in terms of its national and regional impacts? And how serious are chances for calling early elecions if the present tension between the government and Parliament continues?

[Husayn] Well, everything is out in the open and we are soldiering on; we are determined to keep going in that direction. We believe that the role that Jordanians have is a tremendous one to provide a good example to others. There is abuse; there is a situation where mistakes are occurring. But, hopefully, we'll learn from them. And, with patience and perseverance, we will go through to our objectives of consolidating a manner of life where human rights are respected, where there is balance, where there is greater sense of responsibility, where there is proper power-sharing, where there is harmony, where there is progress, where there is a good example to present itself to others in this entire region. We are totally committed to this course, and we will continue to do our best to see that this period is a period of consolidation, of adjustment, and the future is in that way and in that direction. I can't predict what and when we will have changes, but I believe that very soon, hopefully, the National Charter will translate itself into facts in our lives and then maybe we'll take another look at how we move from there on.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, is there truth to news reports about an impending visit to Egypt, and what is the outcome of the recent Egyptian-Jordanian contacts?

[Husayn] We've had extensive contacts recently, and as for a visit, nothing is planned at the moment. And I think that we've made as many moves as we can. I hope that regarding our Arab brethren, they are not misconstrued as anything but a genuine desire to try to look ahead rather than back and only to take from our recent past lessons of that past and that our interest is in people and is in harmony amongst our Arab family. And if these approaches and these attempts are misconstrued for weakness or for anything else, then that will be very, very sad because it will mean that there will be a long time before the chance develops into a reality. In any event, we've gone as far as we can, and we are not going to....[changes thought] We'll wait and see what reactions from others are.

[Reporter] Washington is working with other major nations and funds to provide financial aid to Jordan and Lebanon as it seeks to ensure their continued cooperation in the peace process. What are your expectations from Washington and other countries who have interest in keeping a stable and moderate Jordan?

[Husayn] I hope they will be ready to help at this very critical moment in the life of Jordan and after (?months) of recent developments in the area. And, strangely enough, Jordan, not many people realize, is really the opposite side of the equation. You have Israel; you have all the support that Israel has continuously received from the rest of the world in a very clear and continuous manner. Even that might change in the future, you never know, but this has been the case. Jordan, on the other hand, has been on the receiving side of every setback that has affected and afflicted the Palestinian people and the Arab world. And, although we appreciate whatever help we have received, that hasn't been anywhere near what was needed to create the kind of balance.

I think what we have achieved is tremendous with the resources available and it is not very much short of miraculous. But, if you take the situation as it is right now, with over 300,000 of our Jordanian family coming back as a result of the Gulf crisis, all the pressures that we are facing, we are still going and we have great hopes for the future. And we hope that the rest of the world will, as it does appear to be, understand, support, and help.

[Reporter] Since the five Arab parties to the peace talks are in full agreement on the basics of these talks, what is preventing them from sitting down at the level of a summit just to chart strategy and unify their stand?

[Husayn] I've suggested that this should be the case from the outset, and I've tried, and I'm ready whenever and if ever there is readiness to move in that direction at that level, at even a (?broader) level. Unfortunately, the responses have not enabled us to achieve that target, and by the way, as far as coordination is concerned, I think that we need to define what coordination is. Coordination, to my way of thinking, is a real, open examination of all the options and a determination to work together to achieve a common objective. So far, this hasn't happened and therefore we've had to take positions here and there. Essentially, the Palestinians and Jordanians in terms of the Palestinian-Jordanian dimension, in the diaspora, and more importantly in terms of the occupied territories are under the formula of the joint umbrella provided by the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

But, I don't think that coordination can be meaningful if it means that at a certain given moment in time one party in the equation on the Arab side adopts a position without getting in touch or being a part of the bigger scenario that should be there and suggest that a certain course be followed. I mean this is not coordination, this is some form of action or reaction which is...does not mean very much. I really hope that sooner or later there will be an attempt at an open-minded clear discussion of where we are and where we want to get and there will be, as a result, the kind of guidelines that will enable us to work closely in the future. In the meantime, we are relying on ourselves, Palestinians and Jordanians alike,

and of course we are coordinating to whatever degree we can with our other Arab brethern.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, the last question. With the Syrian-PLO ties mending rapidly, is that relationship moving in parallel to the Jordanian-Syrian relationship and the Jordanian-PLO relationship?

[Husayn] The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, has an embassy here. I believe as far as the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, they are much improved. They are coming to what they should have been in the first place, based on trust and confidence. As far as Jordanian-Syrian relations, well we have always been in touch at the highest levels, even during times of difference and crisis, and it is something I appreciate and value. We certainly are for people coordinating and cooperating and having the broadest possible vision and determination to serve the future of the area and the future of the people in the area. So, we're very happy with that.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Deputies Reject Deleting Jihad from Dakar Statement

JN1612200791 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Forty-two deputies signed a statement today in which they expressed their objection to the exclusion of an article calling for jihad in the recent Dakar summit resolutions. The statement says that this is considered to be an intervention in the religious affairs of the nation and that no one is entitled to annul one of Islam's duties. The statement urged all Arab and Islamic governments to condemn this decision. Copies of the statement have been sent to the Islamic Conference Organization's Secretariat, sections of the Arab and Islamic Parliaments Union, and the Islamic World League.

House Deputies Debate Policy Statement

JN1612163291

[Editorial Report] Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 1223 GMT on 16 December carries a 38-minute recording of highlights of speeches delivered by deputies at the morning session of Jordan's House of Representatives held on 16 December to resume discussion of the policy statement of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's government prior to a vote of confidence. The session is headed by House speaker, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, and attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and cabinet members.

The first to speak is Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz. Beginning his speech, he says that we should not forget what Bin-Shakir's former government did in terms of providing a democratic atmosphere for the sake of honest and free elections that produced the current parliament. He later speaks about foreign policy, saying that he supports "just and honorable peace that will return to the Palestinians their rights." He also calls for supporting the brave intifadah. Commenting on the economy, he calls for avoiding the import of "luxurious commodities to save hard currency for essential materials." As representative of the al-Zarqa' Governorate, he presents the governorate's demands. Concluding his speech, he wishes this government success in honoring its policy statement.

Nawwaf al-Khawalidah is the next to speak. He stresses the need for cooperation between the government and the House to face the current challenges and make Jordan a model of freedom, justice, and stability. Regarding the government's policy statement, he says that it "expresses the nation's opinion." He further says that the statement gives special attention to the Jordanian Armed Forces. The Armed Forces, he states, are a pride to us and to all Arabs. He adds that in light of the leading role of the Armed Forces and the security organs, "we do not accept any harm to or attack on the dignity of any of their members." He defends Jordan's participation in the peace process, saying that the Arab summits had accepted Resolutions 242 and 338. He also stresses that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. He says that "since the objective is to restore the land and establish a just peace," "we must support the government" in waging the peace battle. He voices the "full support" of the Bani-Hasan tribes, Jarash district, for the prime minister.

Ibrahim al-Ghababishah praises the person of the prime minister. He says that the country's leadership can find solutions to the current problems. He discusses domestic problems, including the return of many expatriates, unemployment, price increases, and poverty. Hence, he says, the government must have a practical program for tackling these problems. He goes on to say that former governments promised radical changes, but their promises remained only "ink on paper."

Next to speak is Bassam Haddadin. Commenting on the peace process, he says that there is a parliamentary majority in favor of a "just and comprehensive settlement based on the resolutions of international legitimacy." He says that "we strongly support reaching a balanced settlement that guarantees Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories." In order to put the negotiations on the right track, he states that the government must "insist that the joint negotiating delegation is formed of two delegations—one Palestinian and the other Jordanian." It must insist that the Palestinian delegation is the representative of all the Palestinian people and that continued settlement in the occupied territories "constitutes a danger to Jordanian national security."

Layth Shubaylat speaks about the relationship between the legislative and executive authorities. He also reviews the new world order. Calling for lifting the blockade on Iraq "for the sake of our dignity, chivalry, and honor without which no nation can rise," Shubaylat says that "we must officially lift the embargo as we have done on the popular level." He also says that he will propose to

the esteemed House "a draft resolution that forbids imposing an economic embargo on any Arab country."

Dr. Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi says that no homeland, people, regime, or army in history has faced conspiracies like Jordan. Jordan, he says, is the land of sacrifices, heroism, and unity. He says that we support the king's wise leadership and his attempts "to heal the rift in inter-Arab and Jordanian-Arab relations," especially with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, foremost being Saudi Arabia, which has never hesitated to support Jordan. He says: "I grant al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister, my vote and support."

Mahmud Huwaymil discusses various problems, among which are education, agriculture, unemployment, foreign debt, and poverty.

Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, former minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, calls for upholding Islamic principles and teachings.

The last to speak is Muhammad al-Mu'ar'ar. He praises the government policy statement and hopes that its promises will be fulfilled. The House is now three years old, he adds, yet "we have not achieved effective service to our citizens." He also reviews domestic problems.

Confidence Vote Eases Government 'Crisis'

JN1812073891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The vote of confidence in the government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir Monday seems to have diffused the crisis between the legislative and executive branches of government which has marred the Jordanian political scene over the last three months.

Yet the fact that 27 deputies out of 80 casted a negative vote in the cabinet and a reading of the speeches delivered by the deputies indicate that peace talks with Israel and the debate over political freedoms could still raise future conflicts between the government and Parliament.

In his response to the Lower House al-Sharif Zayd made it clear that Jordan remained committed to the peace talks but will not accept a settlement that will compromise Jordan's sovereignty or the Palestinian national rights. He also pledged to pursue steps that will consolidate the democratisation process.

Al-Sharif Zayd's assurances are not expected to change the hardline position of the opponents of the peace talks, especially the Muslim Brotherhood. His implied declaration that Jordan shall not succumb to economic and political pressure, however, is expected to tone down the tension arising from public scepticism over the direction of the peace negotiations.

Judging by the voting pattern, and the deputies' speeches there are two forms of opposition to the peace process in the Parliament:

—A categorical opposition to the idea of talks with Israel, voiced by the Brotherhood, leftist deputies Fakhri Qa'war, Mansur Murad and Husni al-Shayyab and Arab nationalist parliamentarians.

—Opposition to the terms of the current peace talks that characterise the attitude of some prominent leftist deputies.

Al-Sharif Zayd's reaffirmation of the government's unreadiness to compromise will definitely help in bringing about a smoother relationship between the cabinet and the left, according to analysts.

Yet this relationship will highly depend on the course of the peace process and how concrete the official Jordanian position remains throughout the talks, the analysts maintain.

The Brotherhood, which reiterated its outright rejection of the talks, has toned down its language and avoided direct attacks on the government.

The Brotherhood's position indicates that the movement will avoid any tense relationship with the new government, unlike its attitude towards the government of former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

The conservative Constitution Bloc, which joined forces with the Brotherhood last October in a call for Mr. al-Masri's resignation, has granted the vote of confidence as expected because it is a partner in the government and since its position is motivated by the power struggle over influence in the cabinet rather than by specific political issues.

According to analysts, al-Sharif Zayd has sought to accommodate the conservatives in an attempt to diffuse the increasing tension between Parliament and the executive.

In the view of sources close to the cabinet Mr. al-Masri has erred in taking steps that alienated the traditional constitutionalists.

Other political observers, argue that Mr. al-Masri was trying to establish a new tradition that broaden political participation.

Mr. al-Masri resigned last month after failing to secure the full backing of his main organised allies, the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), a coalition of leftists, nationalists and liberals, after he could not deliver a complete repeal of martial law.

The new cabinet will face the same challenge, the observers argue, as demands for the repeal of martial law are expected to continue.

Therefore, steps towards removing all restrictions on political freedoms and paving the way for political pluralism remain, in the view of political observers, the

main factor that determines the future relationship between Parliament and the executive.

In their speeches, deputies explicitly expressed resentment of what they viewed as official attempts to marginalise the role of Parliament. Islamist Deputy Layth Shubaylat was very specific. He did not directly blame Mr. al-Masri for curbs on political freedoms, but argued that the problem lies in that the prime minister did not have "the real authority."

Mr. Shubaylat was alluding to the power and influence of the security forces. In his speech to the opening session of the parliament, His Majesty King Husayn indicated total commitment to democracy and that the palace will remain well above domestic politics.

The fact that the parliamentary procedure was not affected by the palace's endorsement of al-Sharif Zayd was viewed by many political analysts as a very positive sign towards consolidating the democratisation process.

Parliament and government sources maintain that political differences and hurdles could be contained as long as a balanced relationship is maintained between the government and Parliament.

In his speech, Deputy Bassam Haddadin who withheld his vote of confidence, implied that opposition could take a constructive role provided that there was respect by all parties to the rules of the democratic game.

Drawing on the peace process as an example, Mr. Haddadin who belongs to the Jordan Democratic People's Party, (JPDP), argued that opposition to the peace talks could actually boost the Jordanian negotiating position and the country's sovereignty.

That was only possible, he maintained, if the role of Parliament is protected and respected.

Deputy Mansur Murad, who spoke on behalf of deputies Qa'war and al-Shayyab, charged that political freedoms have witnessed serious setbacks over the last two years and that consecutive governments did not fulfil their promises.

The demand for the permanent repeal of the martial law has been pressed by many deputies expressed resentment of what they viewed as official procrastination of efforts to remove security restrictions and pass new liberal laws. [sentence as published]

A government source told the Jordan Times that the cabinet understands the urgency of the issue and will cooperate with parliament in putting the new laws into effect as soon as possible.

Deputies made it clear that they will not accept the government promises and that they want practical steps to be taken.

The parliamentarians steered away from sharp rhetoric in an attempt to give the government and Parliament a chance to develop a new working relationship. The parliamentarians, some analysts argue, were also restrained because they do not want be viewed as challenging the regime, especially after King Husayn himself presented the cabinet's programme.

Some deputies argued that the governments' programmes should be presented by the prime minister so as to confine the differences between Parliament and government.

Columnist on Debt Rescheduling Difficulties

JN1612135291 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 Dec 91 p 30

[Dr. Fahd al-F .nik "Highlights" column: "What Is the Alternative to the Economic Reform Program?"]

[Text] In the period between the summer of 1990 and the summer of 1991, during which Jordan received generous foreign aid for known political reasons related to the Gulf war and crisis, the Jordanian Government tried to seize the opportunity and reach bilateral agreements rescheduling its debts; that is, without going to the Paris Club or negotiating with the creditor governments collectively. However, the answer of all, except the Soviet Union, was negative. This was because there is an oral and written agreement between the Western industrialized countries and Japan not to reschedule loans to any developing country except collectively and after each concerned debtor country has received a certificate from the IMF showing that it is implementing an adjustment and reform program acceptable to the IMF and that the implementation of the program is proceeding seriously and satisfactorily.

This applies to the Jordanian Government's intensive contacts for nearly 12 months with France, Germany, Britain, Japan, and the United States—the main creditor countries. As for the Arab funds, they have refused to reschedule the debts even with a reform program. They insisted that Jordan should first pay all due installments to the last dollar before they can allow it to withdraw any part of the loans they committed themselves to extend to Jordan in order to finance its developments projects. This means that the foreign countries were more merciful than the Arab funds, including the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, in whose capital Jordan is participating.

Hence, we can say that theoretically Jordan can draw up for itself a better economic reform program than that of the IMF. However, such a program will not convince the foreign creditor countries. These countries will not send their experts to Jordan for several weeks to examine the program and determine its practicality and feasibility as well as Jordan's commitment to its implementation. They are thus acting like those investors who do not give money to a certain company simply because its accounts are correct, its budget is sound, and its work is legal, but they do so because a trusted auditor testifies that its accounts are correct, its budget is sound, and it has not violated laws.

A serious economic reform plan entails certain hardships and sacrifices. Therefore, governments like to claim that they are unwilling to apply such plans and that they are imposed on them. This explains some governments' ostensible complaint against the IMF—an untrue political complaint caused by the fact that some governments are afraid of telling the bitter facts to their people, preferring to rely on the fund to do what they themselves know they should do had there been no political clamor.

CBJ Denies Freezing Kuwaiti Money Transfers

JN1712165391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has denied reports by some Kuwaiti newspapers over the last two days that Jordanian banks have been instructed not to accept any remittances to Kuwaiti banks and that Jordanian banks stopped transferring money to Kuwaiti banks a few days ago.

CBJ told PETRA that these reports are fabricated and perfectly baseless. On the contrary, the CBJ is facilitating transactions between the Jordanian and Kuwaiti banks as usual, including all claims or deposits owed by any party in the Kingdom. The CBJ will continue with its policy regardless of any fabricated or misleading news.

U.S. Aid To Moscow, 'Siege' on Iraq Viewed

JN1612094691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Dec 91 p 1

[Editorial: "The Hand That Aids, the Hand That Kills!"]

[Text] The United States is tremendously capable of looking toward Moscow and shedding tears over the hungry and sick people and children, and of looking toward Baghdad and digging its claws and fangs into the Iraqi people's flesh without blinking an eye or considering that these Arab people have any human rights.

The United States has declared the start of a world campaign for the relief of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the dispatch of U.S. and European foodstuffs to them—foodstuffs whose price is paid by the Arabs. Moreover, the United States has pressured every conference or meeting into issuing a resolution calling for the continuation of the siege on the Iraqi people and the slaughtering of its children and elderly people.

The United States is no longer a superpower. Superiority lies in adopting and defending values and principles. When a country has nothing but its muscles, then the most it can do is to kill according to identity. This is what the United States is doing now to the Iraqi people. This, too, is what will make the United States go down in history as a country which enjoys eating up its victims, whose blood and flesh are washed with tears of sympathy for them. Otherwise, how can we view the dispatch of U.S. relief aid to Moscow a humanitarian action without motive and the killing of Iraqi people a humanitarian action that is not without motive?

President Bush will begin his election campaign for a second presidential term early next year. What will be harmful to the U.S. people and to him personally is the fact that the greatest achievement of his first presidential term was the killing of tens of thousands of Iraqi children and the slaughtering of other tens of thousands of sick and elderly people. Such "achievements" do not befit countries under the new world order or governments on the threshold of the year 2000 or leaders seeking a place in history among those great leaders who offered great services to mankind and contributed to human civilization by their profound commitment to all noble values and principles.

Killing a people so that a president may win an election is a disaster for the United States and for us all. We are fed up with Washington's call for democracy and human rights only to find that these are mere names for criminal murder.

Buwayz Denies Requesting New Arms From U.S.

NC1812065791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz denied in a press statement today that Lebanon has requested new weapons from the United States.

He said Lebanon has asked the United States to release the weapons procured during President al-Jumayyil's term. He noted that the weapons have not been delivered due to the clashes which have broken out during recent years.

Five Israeli Soldiers Reported 'Missing'

NC1712203091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, five Zionist soldiers have been missing for two days. They were on a foot patrol in the Wadi Shab'a-al-Habbariyah area.

The occupation forces and their agents are carrying out a widespread search to find the missing soldiers.

Five Israelis 'Arrested'

JN1712174591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Our correspondent in Beirut, Antoine Kustantin, informed us a short while ago of reports to the effect that five Israeli soldiers, who were headed for the western al-Biqa' area from the security zone in southern Lebanon, were arrested in that area two days ago. According to these reports, joint search efforts between the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army affiliated to Israel are currently under way in search of these five missing soldiers.

Israeli Overflights Noted; Shells Defused

NC1712132691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the mountain and the capital at 1350 today, breaking the sound barrier several times.

The Lahd militia announced that they defused two shells and two rocket launching pads in the western sector of the occupied strip yesterday. The militia radio said the shells were detonated without causing any casualties or damage.

The radio added that this morning Israeli forces picked up two bodies of what it called saboteurs who drowned last night off the Gaza Strip Coast while attempting to infiltrate from Egypt. Lahd radio said that two Beretta pistols, 100 rounds, and a pouch containing two Syrian passports, papers, and 19 bombs were found in their possession.

The radio said that Israeli security sources think the so-called saboteurs could have been sent to carry out operations in Israel or elsewhere.

France's Dumas Promises Support for Rebuilding

PM1712110491 Paris LE MONDE in French 15-16 Dec 91 p 5

[Lucien George report: "Mr. Dumas Promises Paris' Active Support in Rebuilding Lebanon"]

[Text] Beirut—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' visit to Beirut—which lasted a little over 24 hours—put the final touches to the restoration of cordial and preferential relations between France and Lebanon.

In addition to the official talks which continued on the second day—Friday 13 December—Mr. Dumas toured the ruins of downtown Beirut and those of the Residence des Pins which was the French ambassador's residence until 1982, and the minister announced that this building will be restored and returned to its former use. Finally, he visited the Hotel-Dieu, which is France's hospital showpiece in Lebanon and for which Paris has just released aid of 8 million francs, intended for its development.

Mr. Dumas stressed that his talks focused on three subjects—Lebanese sovereignty, with, in addition, the possibility of implementing Security Council Resolution 425 making provision for the withdrawal of the Israelis and, also, the prospects of a withdrawal by the Syrian army; the return to real democracy with truly free parliamentary elections; rebuilding and economic recovery.

In view of the link between the two first points, Mr. Dumas said: "It must be possible to hold the elections in conditions such that they do not require guarantees which they would while there was a foreign presence which could distort the electoral process. It emerged that these elections could take place within a reasonable period which would be a few months or a year at most.... France is prepared to make a contribution in the technical sphere, in other words in drawing up electoral lists."

The minister promised France's active help in three key spheres of rebuilding Lebanon—electricity, telecommunications, and water—stating that he will ask Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy to make a special effort.

Commentary Sees Lack of Progress in Peace Talks

JN1712161391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Washington talks on the peace process in the Middle East did not make any progress yesterday. The Israeli negotiators continued to raise procedural issues and refused to discuss the issue of withdrawal from the occupied territories. At the time these negotiators were maneuvering as usual, the gangs of Zionist settlers—at the blunt instructions from the Shamir government—were attacking Arab citizens in the Silwan quarter of Jerusalem, evicting them from their homes by force, and surrounding the area with barbed wire. Sources associated with the terrorist minister, Sharon, announced new plans to Judaize the old city of Arab Jerusalem and to obliterate its historic structure. In the occupied territories, Zionist terrorism continued, and Arab citizens were exposed to arrest, torture, and beating campaigns. The Israeli authorities continued to confiscate lands and to damage gardens and orchards with bulldozers.

The strange thing is that all of these fascist and terrorist practices and crimes have coincided with the pressures being exerted on the UN General Assembly to repeal its resolution equating Zionism with racism. The repealing of this resolution comes at a time when Israel's racist and criminal policies have not changed at all. On the contrary, Israel's rulers are showing further arrogance and coercion, and obstructing the peace process by all means available to them. The belief by some that repealing the UN resolution will encourage Israel to show flexibility at the peace talks and to respond to the resolutions of international legitimacy on a settlement is basically wrong. This is because Israel will further escalate its intransigence, and its rulers will redouble their attempts to torpedo peace efforts and restore tension, disturbances, and consequently explosion to the region.

From Madrid to Washington, the Israeli negotiators have never uttered the word withdrawal from the occupied territories. They behave as if the UN Security Council resolutions only stipulate that the Arabs should secure peace from Israel and submit to its expansionist schemes. The Israeli negotiators have not said anything at all about Palestinian rights. In fact, they are seeking to obliterate the Palestinian identity, considering the Palestinians to be an unimportant party to the talks—or as if they do not exist at all. The Israeli tactics are very clear. They are represented by maneuvering, procrastination, a lack of commitment to anything, wasting time, and losing the unique opportunity to achieve peace.

The Arabs have responded to the U.S. proposals out of a strong faith in peace and justice. They also responded because the United States showed a seriousness in its efforts and determination to implement international resolutions on all fronts of the conflict. The patience and flexibility demonstrated by the Arabs have won the appreciation of the world. The Arab response, however, must not be interpreted as weakness or a readiness to make concessions on their rights and territories. The Arabs in general, and Syria in particular, adhere to their rights. They will never relinquish an iota of their rights and soil. Inasmuch as the Arabs have supported the international peace efforts, Israel seeks to torpedo these efforts. This is something which necessitates a serious interference to restore things to normal, to make Israel understand that the talks are to discuss the implementation of UN resolutions and not to waste time on issues that have nothing to do with the crux of the conflict.

The Arabs are ready to achieve peace. However, Israel is required to frankly abide by withdrawal from the occupied territories, recognizing Palestinian rights, discussing means of withdrawal, and securing rights immediately without procrastination or prevarication. Peace is impossible without achieving these two essential conditions: withdrawal and rights. The competent international authorities should put Israel on the right course, provided they have the means to do so.

Talks Not Moving in 'Right' Direction

JN1812093191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Dec 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Vicious Circle," AL-THAWRAH says: More than a week after the second phase of the peace conference got under way in Washington, we believe no one can claim that the negotiations are moving in a right, logical direction leading to progress in the peace process and to the desired solution. Nor can anyone claim, we believe, that what is happening in Washington—if it continues in the same way—may create the appropriate climate for a peace that ensures justice and security for all, and clears the tense and explosive atmosphere that dominated the region for more than four decades, always rendering it susceptible to endless dangers of wars and conflicts.

It was no surprise, the paper says, that the Washington talks were paralleled by continued Israeli provocation and stubbornness meant to harm the peace process and render it extremely difficult and complicated. Israel still rejects the principle of withdrawal, continues to build settlements, and escalates brutal oppression against the Palestinian people, trying to obliterate their national identity and swallow up their legitimate rights. Furthermore, Israel is constantly working to change the demographic and geographic features of the occupied Arab territories, with a view to creating a new reality that further complicates the problems of the region and places further obstacles to any possible chance for a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If these serious practices constitute the most important obstacle to progress in the Washington talks, then one can legitimately ask about the methods and means the world community in general,

and the two cosponsors in particular, will adopt to stand up to Israel's intransigence and prevent it from wasting this peace opportunity. It became obvious that the absence of effective pressure encourages Israel to proceed with its obstinacy and allows it to defy international legitimacy because it does not find anybody to deter and stop it.

Concluding, the paper says that the continuation of the talks in such a manner will not lead to positive results. All indications are that Israel will not back down on its no's and impossible conditions unless forced to do so. There must exist a pressure force of the caliber of the United States, which has a lot of influence and means to force Israel to comply with the will of peace and accept the requirements of a just solution.

Al-Zu'bi on Relations With Kuwait, Peace Process

PM1812110991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Dec 91 p 5

[Interview with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi by Ilyas Masuh; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Masuh] You are going to Kuwait...what about that visit...and how would you assess Syrian-Kuwaiti relations? And what is your assessment of Syria's relations with the Gulf states in general?

[al-Zu'bi] We will visit the fraternal State of Kuwait today, Monday, at an invitation from my brother His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. While I express my thanks to his highness the heir apparent for this generous invitation which allows me and members of the Syrian delegation to visit Kuwait, toward which the Syrian people harbor every amity and love, I am confident that this visit will have a great impact on the development of the ties of cooperation between the two fraternal countries at all levels.

Syrian-Kuwaiti relations have always been constructive, they are developing constantly, and they are based on brotherhood and cooperation. [passage omitted]

It can be said that Syrian-Kuwaiti cooperation is taking further steps toward strengthening political, economic, and cultural relations in an atmosphere of mutual trust—steps which indicate better positive results for both fraternal countries. And relations with the fraternal Gulf states in general are witnessing continuing development taking the form of continuing cooperation, expansion of relations, and continuing meetings with officials to strengthen the forms of cooperation in all spheres. [passage omitted]

[Masuh] Syria adopted an honorable position at the Madrid conference which played a great role in throwing light on Israel's position, which is hostile to peace and terrorist by nature. What is your assessment of the peace process sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union?

[Al-Zu'bi] The Syrian position is fixed with its pan-Arab principles. Syria regards the Arab-Israeli conflict a pan-Arab issue. And in its call for strengthening Arab solidarity and consolidating the foundations of joint Arab action it has always proceeded from the fact that it is a pan-Arab necessity to confront the main enemy of the Arab nation, in other words world Zionism. And it always concentrates on the fact that any step toward real peace must proceed from a comprehensive and just solution. The Palestinian issue and the problem of the occupied Arab territories are one Arab issue. And Syria responded to international efforts to participate in the peace process...on the basis of the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. It emphasized its desire for peace, but a just and comprehensive peace. It is clear that, through its intransigence and maneuvers designed to obstruct the course of the talks, Israel is trying to thwart this process and any process aimed at restoring the usurped Arab rights. [passage omitted]

Iran

'Largest Ever' Gas Field Discovered in Gulf

LD1712124291 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—The largest ever gas field with a proven capacity of 100 trillion cubic feet has been discovered in the Persian Gulf international waters, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters here Tuesday.

He added that the field named "Southern Pars" lies near the joint water borders with Qatar and is "the largest ever discovery of its kind in the history of the oil industry". It was discovered during joint exploration by Iran's off-shore oil company and the national Iranian drilling company.

Aqazadeh put the value of the field at U.S. dlrs. 200 billion and noted that the field has a gas cap and a reservoir of gas liquids estimated around 2.5 to 3 billion barrels.

"While drilling, oil layers were found at a depth of 1200-1400 meters the capacity and vastness of which is yet to be determined. However, it is remarkable," he told reporters.

The discovery, one of the world's largest, said the oil minister, was made possible after a year and a half of studies and six months of drilling operations.

The natural pressure of the field is 5200 pounds on square inches in the deep areas and 1500 pounds on square inches at the top, which Aqazadeh described as "ideal pressure".

He disclosed that Iran was currently holding talks with foreign companies for investing in the project to tap the significant discovery.

The new discovery more than doubles Iran's current natural gas reserves of 17 trillion cubic metres.

RSFSR's Rutskoy Arrives, Comments on Goals

LD1712222191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] RSFSR Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy arrived in Tehran today at the head of a high-level political-economic delegation. He was welcomed by Vice President Mohajerani.

On his arrival in Tehran, Mr. Rutskoy was interviewed by our reporter. He said: This trip was arranged following talks last month between Iran's minister of foreign affairs and RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin. During this visit, in addition to the problem of Afghanistan, we will discuss the economic and political relations between our two countries.

Commenting on future ties between the RSFSR and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Rutskoy said: My country is willing to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields. The members of the Commonwealth of Independent States share the same view with us and welcome such cooperation.

Regarding the position of Russian Muslims under the new political regime in the RSFSR, Mr. Rutskoy said: Different nationalities and religions will live side by side without any problem, and under equal terms, as before.

In reply to a question on the future of economic agreements signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, now that the RSFSR regime has changed, he said: We will honor agreements since this is in the interest of both countries. My presence here is to strengthen and expand relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the RSFSR.

Asks Tehran To Help Free Afghanistan POW's

LD1812114691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Mr. Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Federation, met Mr. 'Ata 'ollah Mohajerani, parliamentary vice president, this morning.

In the meeting Mr. Rutskoy said that the Russian Republic is serious in its intentions to expand cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: With due regard to developments which have taken place in the USSR, we expect the Islamic Republic of Iran to use its influence for the release of our prisoners who are in the hands of the Afghan mojahedin.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mohajerani said: We are following developments in your country carefully and with sensitivity. We hope the results of these developments will be in the interests of your nation and point the way toward freedom and democracy.

At this meeting it was decided that joint expert committees will follow up bilateral agreements and contracts.

Tehran Radio Views Relations With PRC

LD1712130691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1058 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of our country's Majles, is currently visiting China at the invitation of the chairman of the PRC National People's Congress. A political and economic delegation is accompanying him. During his meetings with CPC Secretary General Jiang Zemin and National People's Congress Chairman Wan Li, Mr. Karrubi discussed issues of interest to both countries, as well as regional and international affairs. In the course of the talks, the two parties, having stressed the age-old and longstanding ties between the two

nations of Iran and China, underlined the need to expand bilateral cooperation in all political, economic, and cultural fields.

Relations between Iran and China have been further consolidated by visits by the two countries' high-ranking officials in recent years. Last year, with the signing of a memorandum of understanding on economic, commercial, and cultural fields, the level of the two countries' economic relations was upgraded from a mere commercial level to an industrial and technical level.

Our Majles speaker's visit to China is expected to further strengthen relations between the two countries. Their common interests in regional and international issues and their shared views on enhancing relations with Third World countries, in particular toward resisting America's hegemony, presages a bright perspective for future relations between the two countries.

China which, with a population of over 1 billion people, has succeeded in attaining remarkable achievements in the agricultural, industrial, and economic fields, enjoys potential economic and social resources which could be used in mutual cooperation with our country.

At the same time, our country, with its massive economic and mineral resources, such as oil, gas, and skilled labor, could further strengthen the cooperation between the two rich and powerful countries of the Third World.

Our Majles speaker's visit to China could, in view of the friendly and ancient ties between the two countries and reciprocol needs, provide the necessary groundwork toward enhancing bilateral ties between Iran and China. Bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international cooperation could constitute a basis for the progress and further development of the two countries' relations.

Tehran Blocked Access to UN Human Rights Envoy

TA1712143591 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0645 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Galindo Pohl, the UN Human Rights Commission special envoy, and the delegation accompanying him, who had come to Tehran for the third time to look into cases of human rights violations in the Islamic Republic, left Tehran after a one-week stay.

While the UN envoy was in Tehran, the Islamic Republic regime made every effort to prevent people from making contact with him. By stationing its agents around the UN building in Argentine Square, the regime did not allow those with complaints against the Islamic Republic regarding its consistent, repeated violations of human rights to submit their complaints to Galindo Pohl. Despite the strict control by government agents, however, reports indicate that a large number of relatives of political and convicted prisoners managed to deliver their complaints to Galindo Pohl. In addition, the UN envoy was able to learn of human rights violations in the Islamic Republic through documents that were placed at his disposal. According to a report, a large number of complaints were handed over to Galindo Pohl on 13 and 14 December. On the basis of this report, the people managed to deliver their complaints to the UN delegation by learning of its itinerary.

It is expected that in his report, which will be submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission within the next two months, Galindo Pohl will expose the flagrant, consistent violations of human rights in Iran and once again place the regime of the ruling mullahs in the dock of world public opinion.

Minister Urges No 'Meddling' in Majles Elections

LD1812084891 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdallah Nuri today called on governors and governors-general of the country to refrain from any interference in the forthcoming Majles elections to be held next April. He urged that no governmental facility should be used for the electoral campaign.

In his inaugural speech to the nationwide seminar of governors and governors-general here, the hojjat ol-eslam stressed "You must withhold any meddling in the elections. The people have the right to freely elect their representative notwithstanding that a particular candidate has, in your opinion, certain weak points."

He added, "The Interior Ministry is dutybound to attract the people's support. The elections must be held in a way that a very high number of voters turn out."

The interior minister warned that "if a mere eight million out of the country's 57 million population turn out for any (general) elections, the case would be considered alarming. Elections must be held in a way that makes the people hopeful of the system."

Iranians will go to the polls on April 10 to elect 270 deputies for the fourth 4-year term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles).

Some ten million voters turned out in elections for the first term of Majles held on March 14, 1980. The figure increased to 15 million-plus for the second term on April 15, 1984 and to over 17 million for the third Majles elections on April 8, 1988.

Source: Former Oil Minister 'Martyred' in Iraq

LD1712132391 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Former Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan who had been captured by the Iraqi forces in 1980 has been martyred in Iraq, an Oil Ministry source confirmed here Tuesday.

The source told IRNA that the family of martyr Tondguyan accompanied by his former deputy Mohsen Yahyavi had recently gone to Iraq to identified the body of the late Tondguyan.

Yahyavi had also been captured together with Tondguyan and was set free two years ago after Iraq accepted all Iranian conditions to cease hostilities.

According to the source, the body of martyr Tondguyan is now being transported to Iran and is expected to arrive in Bakhtaran border province soon.

Pakistan

Li Peng Visit to India 'Welcome Development'

BK1612105691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] The recent visit by the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, to India was seen in Pakistan as a welcome development. Coming as it did after a lapse of 30 years when China's late Prime Minister Zhou Enlai had paid a visit to India, it was expected that the occasion would provide a breakthrough in the Indo-Chinese relations which had cooled off as a result of the boundary dispute provoked by India in 1962.

The resumption of the good-neighborly relations between the two Asian countries would indeed promote the cause of regional stability and world peace. Pakistan will certainly view the normalization of relations between China and India with much satisfaction as it enjoys the best of relations with China and wishes it exceedingly well. Some comfort may also be drawn from the fact that during the Chinese leader's visit the two countries have signed three agreements which would give an impetus to the improvement of trade, science and technology, and cultural relations between the two countries. Hopefully, India would also realize ih the not-too-distant future the desirability of resolving the ticklish boundary question with China.

According to independent reports emanating from the Indian capital, the Indian leaders utilizing the opportunity also discussed with their Chinese counterparts their perceptions of the regional issues, particularly India-Pakistan relations. In doing so, they seem to have raised certain points in a manner that borders on vilification of Pakistan to create a wedge between China and Pakistan. For example, on Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian side has reportedly blamed Pakistan for openly supporting the so-called terrorists in Kashmir.

To the Pakistan proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, India expressed its opposition and complained about the supply of certain short-range missiles from China to Pakistan. The Chinese response was, as expected, based on its principled stand on this issue. On Jammu and Kashmir, the Chinese leader is reported to have reiterated China's desire that Pakistan and India should resolve their dispute peacefully. On the question of the sale of short- range missiles, the Chinese side has clarified that the transaction does not violate any international accord or understanding which might preclude their transfer to Pakistan. It is only the sale of longer-range weapons which is forbidden, and the Chinese-made missiles do not fall under that definition.

The Indian approach toward these questions, as also their line of argument, is not so clear, and, indeed, it is wayward. Instead of tackling these issues in a straightforward manner, it persists in its own style of [words indistinct] into the matter and it takes recourse to diplomatic gimmickry. The Indian leadership's blatant rejection of Pakistan's move to commence a five-nation conference, including China, Pakistan, India, the United States, and the Soviet Union, to consider the question of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia could not possibly please their Chinese guests in view of the fact that the Chinese have repeatedly expressed their support for the Pakistani proposal and they had themselves earlier this year declared their willingness to sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. More so, the Chinese must have wondered how India, which has developed its intermediate- and long-range ballistic missiles with the capability to fire nuclear warheads, could possibly object to the transfer of short-range missiles by China to a friendly country for its legitimate defense requirements.

As for Jammu and Kashmir, no amount of sophistry on the part of Indians can obfuscate historical facts that the occupied state's future is yet to be determined. That is the commitment of the United Nations, including India and Pakistan, to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. As India refuses to grant them the right to self-determination in accordance with the United Nations resolutions, the people of the held territory have launched a heroic struggle for freedom which has gained unprecedented momentum during the last two to three years. Instead of responding positively to the realities on the ground, India is relying on suppressing the freedom movement by holding on to repression of the worst order. India would be well advised to pay heed to the Chinese advice on Kashmir and seek a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

U.S. Official's Regional Tour Assessed

BK1412123991 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Nov 91 p 6

[By Khalid Akhtar]

[Text] Now as Reginald Bartholomew, US Under Secretary of State for International Security, is back home after holding exhaustive talks in Islamabad and New Delhi, it would be interesting to analyse the pattern and outcome of his parleys in the two capitals.

In the first place, it was not an ordinary or routine visit by a US official. He carried a specific agenda with

him—the wrapping up of the nuclear issue in the area—and he proceeded with it in a business-like manner.

The tone of the visits was set by some very tough talking in Beijing. The Americans did not have a smooth sailing there as the Chinese leadership, as has been the case all along, was defiant on issues concerning national sovereignty. Yet, Baker and company were able to make the Chinese discuss the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square incident, the overall human rights situation in that country and China's sale of missile technology to Third World countries, particularly Pakistan and Iran.

The nuclear issue posed no serious problem as China had already stated its willingness to sign the NPT [nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. After having wound up the Chinese visit with a partial success, the Americans naturally hoped for somewhat easy going in less difficult areas—India and Pakistan. But this did not prove to be the case.

Bartholomew found the Pakistan leadership determined and resolute on the nuclear issue. From the Pakistani side, most of the negotiations were left to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who knows well the art of straight and blunt talking.

Pakistan, while firmly ruling out surrender on the nuclear issue, expressed its readiness to resolve the matter in the context of any regional arrangement on the basis of equality and parity with India. Islamabad has had the satisfaction of talking straight and tough to the Americans on the issue. With the ball remaining in the Indian court on the nuclear issue ever since the announcement by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's five nation moot proposal, the Pakistani leadership found itself in a better position to resist US pressure tactics.

It was by no means a small satisfaction for Islamabad when Bartholomew stated categorically that it was not the US policy to make India a 'regional hegemon'. It is doubtful that Mr Batholomew made this statement with any conviction. However, the important thing is that the US Under Secretary did after all feel the necessity of making such a pronouncement at a stage when things were delicately placed in the subcontinent.

However, Mr Bartholomew had his share of tough talking when discussing Pakistan's alleged support to Kashmiri freedom fighters and Sikh militants in Indian Punjab. The Indians were particularly happy over it and did not hide their glee.

It is on the Kashmir issue that the US tilt towards India is clear, and Bartholomew left no doubt that the US wants Islamabad to stop its support to the struggling Kashmiris. It is a source of satisfaction that the US is talking about UN resolution vis-a-vis effort to find a solution of the Mideast problem. Again, it wrought havoc on Iraq under the pretext of implementing the UN resolutions. But the US does not find itself obliged to back the UN resolutions on Kashmir. At times, the US double standards are painful, and Pakistan has been one of the countries which has suffered the most on account of this.

Another thing to emerge during Bartholomew's visit was the overwhelming position which President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has come to occupy in the existing set-up. The nuclear issue has been his baby. But in this case all the meaningful talks concerning almost all the issues remained confined between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Bartholomew, with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif hardly figuring in these parleys.

It would be a hard task to evaluate the outcome of the Bartholomew visit from the Pakistani point of view. It was not a flop, but it did not give any hope to Islamabad either. The earmarking of 208 million dollars as aid to Pakistan in the next fiscal year, makes it clear that the US still wants to do business with Islamabad. But at what cost to Pakistan? That is the question the Pakistani leadership is confronted with.

Though Pakistan remained firm on the nuclear issue, the inclusion of Mr Aoki, a nuclear expert, in Bartholomew's team and his talks here have raised some serious questions. What emanated from New Delhi when Mr Bartholomew was there was even more significant. A report, whose authenticity is still to be determined, said that India might open its nuclear facilities to inspection. Does it mean that India is coming up with its own initiative on the nuclear issue? Islamabad has to be on guard.

However, Pakistan's biggest failure has been its inability to win over US support or at least make it neutral on the Kashmir issue. Strangely, Pakistan's backing for the Kashmiris is being regarded as support to terrorism. Bartholomew, as has been the case with other US officials, was found unreasonable on the Kashmir issue.

In contrast, there was a certain amount of euphoria in Delhi at the conclusion of Bartholomew's visit. There was not the same tough talking in New Delhi as had been in Islamabad. With the two countries relations already on the upswing, Bartholomew's visit provided another opportunity to the two sides to move closer to each other.

India acted with opportunism when just on the eve of Bartholomew's visit, it withdrew its offer of sale of a nuclear plant to Iran. That had been developing into an irritant between the two countries, and India knew very well how it stood to gain the most. So when Bartholomew landed in New Delhi, the host had already performed a gratuitous act.

New Delhi, as usual, found America accommodating on the Kashmir issue. It found Bartholomew responsive to complaints against Pakistan for the latter's alleged interference in Kashmir and Punjab. It is not known what advice Mr Bartholomew gave to the Indians as to how to resolve the Kashmir issue, but it is apparent that nothing substantive came under discussion on this issue.

Initial reports said that India on the persuasion of Mr Bartholomew at last agreed to consider Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's proposal of a five nation conference on the nuclear issue. And this appeared to be the biggest gain of Bartholomew's journey to the subcontinent. But subsequent events proved that it was nothing more than a familiar Indian gimmick to get out of a difficult situation.

How the US would take India's reiteration of its nuclear stand and rejection of the five nation conference proposal, remains to be seen. Perhaps India thinks that it can count on its effective lobby at the Capitol Hill and that the US as usual will show a soft corner for it.

It is evident that Bartholomew's nuclear mission has ended in failure largely due to India's intransigence again. But India can take this liberty. It has remained a passion with the US to woo India and the latter has fully exploited this.

Pakistan, as already pointed out, has hardly any reason to be satisfied with the outcome of Bartholomew's visit. But similar is not the case with India. The message to Islamabad is clear. The days ahead will witness closer India-US relations, and that could only be at the cost of Pakistan.

Meeting With Iranian Trade Representatives Held

LD1212192491 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 12, IRNA—Ways of upgrading Tehran-Islamabad trade exchanges were discussed in a meeting between representatives of the two countries' private sectors here Wednesday. Head of the Iranian delegation, Hoseyn Salimi told IRNA here that issues such as introduction of a balanced customs tariff, joint production of trucks, spare parts and other products and activating border markets between the member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), were discussed during the meeting. ECO groups Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. Salimi who is also member of the board of directors of ECO Chambers of Commerce added that in respect to the historical, political and cultural common backgrounds between Iran and Pakistan, the existing level of bilateral trade exchanges is not favourable and that it is necessary to be upgraded to an acceptable level. The Iranian delegation, including businessmen and industrialists, arrived in Karachi Tuesday night and is expected to visit Rawalpindi and Quetta as well to discuss bilateral trade exchanges. Chambers of Commerce of ECO member countries are to meet in Turkey on December 22.

Army Chief of Staff Reviews Troop Exercises

BK1512101691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Dec 91 p 12

[Text] Sialkot, Dec 1—The lessons from the Gulf War are being practised during the army exercises to counter the threat of precision and 'smart' weapons.

This was stated by the Chief of Army Staff [COAS], General Asif Nawaz while talking to a group of defence correspondents during his visit to the exercise area near here Saturday evening.

The COAS while replying to a query about the scope of conventional weapons in the presence of precision weapons, said, "We have carried out our studies about the Gulf War, though the environments were different, yet certain changes have to be brought about.

"Probably we need more discretion and the hours of darkness will be more useful, particularly for a country like ours which does not have the technical know how or air superiority."

Nevertheless he assured, "we are aware of these problems and we do practice them especially when we come out on training."

To a question whether Pakistan could match India in conventional war, he said, "They are numerically superior but that does not necessarily mean that we cannot look after them by conventional means. There is a certain force ratio which we maintain and the whole purpose of this is to ensure that they do not have ascendency over us in any way," he added.

When asked about the situation on the border, he said "There is nothing to worry about. The deployment of Indian army in the Rajasthan sector is because of their training period and also due to the elections in Eastern Punjab.

"Our Directors General Military Operations are in touch with each other on regular basis, which is part of an agreement signed between the two sides in March this year to keep each other informed about troops movement and exercises," he added.

Responding to a question about the situation in the India occupied Kashmir and possibility of war from India, he said. "If they cannot control it then it is their problem, not mine. First let them control what they have over there then we will think about it."

Earlier the Chief of Army Staff visted various units participating in the winter exercises. He was briefed about the achievements of various army formations against their specified objectives.

"Al-Hadeed" is the codename assigned to the army winter exercises being held around Sialkot. The exercise conducted on the usual pattern of two imaginary countries, Foxland and Blueland, was not of the scale of Zarb-i-Momin [military exercise held in 1990].

Defense Official on Weapons, Ordnance Production

BK1312160091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, federal minister for defense production, has said that Pakistan has achieved self-sufficiency in the manufacture of small arms and

ammunition. Speaking to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL in Islamabad, he said that this progress is due to the present government policy which emphasizes self-reliance in view of the changing international geopolitical situation. He said that the private sector has been encouraged in defense production and that its response is quite satisfactory.

Zaki Comments on Outcome of Islamic Summit

BK1512060691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Akram Zaki, secretary general of foreign affairs, has said that Pakistan played a vital role at the sixth Islamic summit in Dakar, resulting in the adoption of three important resolutions on Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Muslim minorities in countries which are not members of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Karachi yesterday, he said that besides adopting these resolution, the summit accepted all proposals put forward by the prime minister in his speech, including a common market of Muslim countries and the future role of the Islamic community in the changing global situation. He added that the Dakar declaration also supported Pakistan's proposal for initiating projects of common interest to ICO member states by making use of their financial and natural resources and scientific and technical capabilities.

Akram Zaki said that the important thing is the inclusion in the declaration of the call by the prime minister to the ICO to commit itself to peace and security by developing a mechanism for the peacful resolution of disputes and appropriate disarmament.

Sri Lanka

President Details Government's Policy Goals

BK1412181491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1612 GMT 14 Dec 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—Making a major policy statement and a review of the progress made by his government President Ranasinghe Premadasa today told the executive committee of the United National Party [UNP] that the main objective of his government in 1992 would be to find a political solution to the north east issue with the collective agreement of all political parties. The president said that before the end of 1992, the government hoped to create a peaceful environment in the north east with the collective agreement of all political parties. President Premadasa said in his address that his government which assumed power on a pledge given to serve all the people irrespective of differences had so far worked firmly on this promise. Recalling that the Ven. [venerable] Walpola Rahula Thera recently said that the two main political parties in the country were responsible if there was any crisis in Sri Lanka, the president said there was no doubt that such a situation could be eliminated by 1994, because of the government's reasonable programme. The president explained at length the measures taken by the government to launch development programmes, to generate employment and bring down inflation.

Revewing the progress made by his government President Premadasa said inflation has come down from 24 per cent to 14 per cent. Unprofitable institutions have become profitable ventures because of the peopleisation programme. Fifty nine thousand persons had been given employment in the education sector alone. A streamlined programme is underway to eliminate wastage and malpractices in the public sector. State banks which were hitherto restricted to the affluent now serve the common man. More than 243,000 persons have obtained loans from the Bank of Ceylon under the new programme. Ordinary farmers had received large scale credit from this bank. Over 300,000 families have received land under the presidential task force programme. Nearly 345,000 families have been provided shelter under the 1.5 million houses programme. The president said 550,000 houses will be built in Colombo and the suburbs. The president's fund will provide assistance. The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit and the SAF [South Asian Federation] games will be hosted in Sri Lanka.

Explaining the programme to be launched in the new year, the president said Sri Lanka will receive the chairmanship of SAARC. The nine affiliated universities will commence functioning from the beginning of 1992. The administration will be decentralised to the village level and the kacheri [local court] system, abolished. Two hundred regional secretariat offices will be established at assistant government level; [words indistinct] officers. Local investors will receive all incentives given to foreigners. Incentives limited to the Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC) area will be extended to cover the entire island. Several incentives will be granted to encourage agricultural and industrial production. Land will be given only to producers and not to investors for agricultural activities. Two hundred garment factories will be set up next year and the target here is to provide employment to (?220,000) persons. A new programme to provide training to graduates for local as well as foreign employment mill be launched in 1992. Two thousand graduates will be given teaching appointments. President said 8,000 voluntary teachers will be recruited as trainee teachers next year. Special consideration will be given to members of families affected by terrorist activities in granting employment.

President Premadasa pointed out that before the end of 1992 the government hoped to create a peaceful environment in the north-east areas. A main objective of the government's programme in 1992 was to find a political solution to the north east issue with the collective agreement of all political parties. The president said the people will benefit by the government's various development programmes in 1993. Twenty five affiliated universities will be established within the 25 districts in 1994.

Referring to the recent incident the president said such a situation arose because it was very clear that no force could topple the government, due to its programmes and the people will not leave any room for such action. The president said that even Sri Lanka's history records occasions where traitors [words indistinct] those working with theme. President Premadasa said the government was able to overcome the situation because of the honesty and enthusiasm of the parliamentarians. He said the UNP was a party based on democracy and it adheres to the laws of the country. This has been proved even in the judiciary. The party was launched not to give individuals leadership, but to work for the welfare of the entire country. The UNP was a collection of many policies and not a collection of persons.

Soviet Embassy Fires Sri Lankans To Cut Costs

BK1712074191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Colombo, Dec 17 (AFP)—The cash-strapped Soviet Embassy has dismissed virtually all local staff working in its information department here as part of a global cost-cutting program, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

About 50 Sri Lankans employed by the information department lost their jobs, receiving golden handshakes of up to 2,500 dollars, the sources said.

Diplomats here believe the steps would eventually lead to the closure of the information department, which had one of the biggest staff of any Colombo-based foreign mission.